Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-025 *7 February 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Fuel Tankers Banned Entry Into Gaza

JN0702103395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee met at Erez checkpoint yesterday. It was agreed during the meeting that Israeli fuel tanker trucks would transport fuel to the Nahal 'Oz checkpoint. Palestinian companies would then transport the fuel from the checkpoint to the Palestinian gas stations in the Gaza Strip. The occupation authorities also imposed new restrictions on the entry of Israelis into the Gaza Strip.

These new measures were taken after an Israeli soldier was killed and another was seriously wounded when unidentified gunmen attacked a fuel truck with machine guns yesterday.

Israel Said Ready To Draft Election Accord

TA0602140595 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Feb 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev, Yosi Levi, and Hanan Schlein]

[FBIS Translated Text] The negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on elections in the territories will go into high gear in Cairo tomorrow when they start officially formulating the agreement. Political sources in Jerusalem said last night that "there are already enough understandings" to begin drafting the actual accord.

Israel, it was reported, has decided to adopt a "soft" policy, which will permit the participation of the Palestinian opposition movements, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], in the elections. The sources also said Israel is interested in Hamas and the other rejectionist movements' participation in the elections to get them involved in a political struggle and not a physical one.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is preparing contingency plans for redeployment outside the main population centers in the territories. The redeployment is based on safeguarding the settlements and the main roads and holding on to primary strategic points in the field. Within the framework of the plan, the IDF is preparing to relocate several small settlements whose defense is complicated by their problematic locations.

The plan is based on the IDF's departure from the city centers in Samaria in the first stage and in Hebron in the last stage.

The settlements of Ganim and Qadim will be linked to 'Afula and might even be relocated. Each isolated settlement will be heavily secured by the IDF. The command in the Ramallah area will be in Psagot, and a Ramallah bypass road will be constructed.

Israeli Delegate Previews Election Talks

TA0702062295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Cairo today, Israel and the PLO will begin a new round of negotiations on Palestinian elections. On what is expected from the talks, Steve Linde spoke to Yo'el Singer, the Foreign Ministry official who heads Israel delegation.

[Begin recording] [Singer] Last meeting, we agreed that when we next meet in Cairo we should start drafting the election agreement. We have been presenting thus far our respective positions and the time has come, so we have decided, to start the actual work of drafting.

[Linde] How long a process is this going to be? In how long do you expect an announcement on a date, for example, for Palestinian elections?

[Singer] Well, the date of the Palestinian elections is intertwined with the resolution of many other issues. Specifically, the security issues and the Israeli redeployment. Elections, according to the Declaration of Principles, cannot take place before a comprehensive agreement on the interim agreement is in place, and the election process and conditions is only one part, one chapter, in a broader agreement. So we cannot talk now about dates. What we can do is work as fast as we can in order to put in place all the procedural aspects of the elections so that when all the other issues will be agreed upon then we shall be able to conduct the elections on time.

[Linde] Speaking of security issues though, what kind of impact does the latest terrorist attack in Gaza have on the talks in Cairo?

[Singer] I do not think that the talks in Cairo have anything to do with these terrorist attacks because we are now focusing on the method and procedures of the elections. We are not talking about security. But in negotiations regarding the security elements of the agreement which are taking place elsewhere, I guess that the impact will be very serious. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 7 February adds that Yo'el Singer "told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that Israel is committed to holding free and democratic elections in the territories in which the participation of PLO opponents would also be permitted."]

*Iran-Gulf Countries' Ties Said in Perpetual Trouble

95LH0063A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Dec 94 p 15

[Article by Muhammad al-Rumayhi, editor of Kuwaiti magazine AL-'ARABI: "Iran-Gulf Relations: Neighborliness and Dialogue or Borders and Troop Buildups?"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Arab-Iranian relations in the Gulf region have always been troubled. The reasons are many. No observer needs a great deal of evidence to perceive the symptoms of this trouble. Nor is it in the interest of the Iranians, or the Arabs on the western shore of the Gulf, to ignore the extent of the deterioration of these relations, especially as this is not the end of things. Nor is it in the interest of either side to blow this trouble out of proportion to its objective causes, or go fishing in the swamps of muddy water so abundant in the region.

There is a problem that exists. It is not fleeting or new. It is the result of the historical and geographical legacy that has formed the land around us. It is a problem that sometimes eases and at other times intensifies, but it always threatens the fragile stability of the region. We need to dust it off and subject it to systematic analysis in order to achieve for our peoples the security and stability that we want them to have.

In less than six years, the 20th century will be history, and it is incumbent upon rational people on both sides to examine the hidden causes behind this troubled relationship and study them. In this way they may—and, I believe, they will—arrive at beneficial solutions, achieve their own higher interests, and avert more trouble. For some time, the communiques of Gulf summits have made room for Iran, specifically at the 13th Gulf summit in Riyadh in 1992. Iran had begun, shortly before the summit, to accelerate its steps to diminish the Emirates' sovereignty over the three Gulf islands, Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs, and after approximately 20 years of their actual occupation of them. The issue of these islands is, in my view, like a mountain of ice in troubled Iranian-Arab relations in the Gulf, and there are still other pending issues.

The troubled relationship between Iran and the Arab states in the Gulf—to tell the truth—is not the result of the policies of the current regime toward these countries, but the result of the cultural-civilizational-geographical situation, regardless of who is in power in Tehran. In order not to dig too deeply into history, we may consider some of the pathological symptoms of this relationship since the 1960s, after which Iran stood, as a country, on "one foot," working its way through domestic unrest. The ambitions of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi had nothing to with stirring up the waves of this trouble. His foreign policy was an attempt to spread Iranian influence, not only in the Gulf, but among all the Arabs and as far as the Indian Ocean, and on Iran's flank to the east. The United States policy of that time, particularly after its defeat in Vietnam, was one of relying on regional allies. The best example of this policy in the Gulf was the Shah of Iran, with his great ambitions, with which we are familiar. Between 1969, when Richard Nixon announced the principle of that policy, and the fall of the Shah in 1979, Iran was America's favorite place in the world. America showered it with military and technical aid, for which the Iranian people were later to pay a high price. The Shah's policy in the Gulf rested on two basic elements: the use of Iran's distinct, positive geography and demography and, second, broad-based American support for realizing the dream of the "policeman of the Gulf."

This policy was not viewed as favorable or satisfactory by the Arab Gulf states, and though they overlooked it at times, at other times they criticized it openly in the media.

When the end of the British presence approached in the late 1960s, the Gulf states tried to find a reasonable loophole to guarantee an order for regional security, but these efforts failed for one reason: the then-raging Iran-Iraq dispute. The 1969 Muscat meeting, in which all states on the Gulf littoral took part, including Iran and Iraq, failed because each of these countries used its veto to reject the participation of the other in the security arrangements. What was seen as favorable for the Shah at that time was to persuade him to find a reasonable face-saving way in which to rescind Iran's historic claim to Bahrain. This happened in 1969, after a popular plebiscite there, though the Shah then seized the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates on the eve of the withdrawal of British forces from the Gulf in 1971. The problem worsened after that, and remains so today.

The revolutionary government of Iran, which entered into a domestic maelstrom, and then a foreign one with its long war with Iraq, gradually inherited the Shah's ambitions, though they were now disguised in an Islamic ideology. Some in the Gulf thought that so profound and comprehensive a revolution would look at issues between it and its Arab Muslim neighbors far differently from the "Aryan arrogance" the government of Shah Mohammed Reza displayed towards his Arab neighbors. They hoped for a point of view of Islamic brotherhood, especially as this was one of its slogans. Some Gulf states intervened in a positive way to prevent an escalation of the Iran-Iraq dispute when that came to the surface. There were tireless efforts to end the war that broke out between the two countries, and to minimize its losses. This was done through direct contact with the warring sides, or through international organizations such as the Islamic Conference Organization and the Nonaligned Movement, though as is well known, these efforts ultimately failed.

The foreign policy toward the Gulf that revolutionary Iran adopted from the beginning was the concept of "exporting revolution" to the point that some Iranian hard-liners organized "secret militias" for that objective. The Islamic dimension came into Iran's foreign policy in order to reach Arab countries relatively far from the Gulf through ideological slogans. It reached Sudan, Egypt, Algeria, and Lebanon, each in a different way. In the Gulf, which was at odds with Iran in some ways, revolutionary Iran's foreign policy wavered, as the direct result of disputes between feuding power centers inside Iran. There was a pragmatic faction calling for good neighborliness and another seeking the spread of the

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principles of the revolution by any means. These factions were at odds whenever there was any crisis, big or small, in the Gulf.

The Arab states of the Gulf seek relations with an Iran whose essence would emphasize noninterference in internal affairs, the nonexport of ideas or encouragement of terrorism, and the adoption of a policy of coexistence and good neighborliness. These are principles based on the civilized relations that must exist between nations, and which have been repeated in more than one declaration and more than one Gulf document. At the same time, the hard-line wing in Iran was putting its money into igniting the domestic antagonisms of the Arab Gulf states, and taking advantage of secondary antagonisms as much as possible. They were also betting on certain factional elements, which the hard-liners believed—mistakenly—could be activated from afar to stir up sectarian or class conflict.

It has been proved, with a very high degree of truth, that this sectarian exploitation exists only in the imagination of some people and that it has no actual basis in reality. Recent years have demonstrated the weakness of this element, because of the Gulf peoples' feeling that they are citizens, bound to their country by a loyalty stronger than any other loyalty.

Just as the Shah made a positive step in rescinding Iran's claims on Bahrain, the revolutionary regime had a positive position of its own, which we appreciated. During the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, Tehran declared from the beginning the inadmissibility of occupying others' territory by force—despite the political inducements Baghdad offered Tehran at the time. And Tehran did not please the other side when it escalated its opposition to the international forces. This positive manifestation in Iran's foreign policy succeeded for the first time in holding a collective meeting in New York in the autumn of 1990 of the foreign ministers of the six Gulf states and Iran, a step sought by Iran's foreign policy, although that positive step did not bear fruit. A short time later, Iran stepped up its movements toward sovereignty over the Arab islands in the Gulf. The situation under revolutionary Iran then replicated the situation under the Shah. The Gulf states tried to adapt to the ideological call to strengthen the Islamic trend, but in their own ways. The message of the Shah's experiment was clear: that standing in the path of this political trend was not without its consequences. However, its expansion, after the success and momentum it had attained, began a gradual decline. Many intrinsic and objective factors contributed to the start of its disappearance, chiefly the fact that the Iranian experiment had itself, domestically, failed to fulfill its slogans of freedom and pluralism for the Iranian masses. Also, comparable Arab experiments in Sudan had taken its place. More important than this disappearance, however, were the feelings of failure on the part of those forces that accepted the Iranian model, for which they tried to compensate through terrorism. This rendered all those on the other side willing and able to criticize these trends. Meanwhile, the negative points of the Iranian political mission, in its deep cooperation with Yemen and Sudan, from food programs to transport and communications projects, to the opening of Iranian Red Crescent offices and branches of the Ministry of Construction Jihad, drew attention—after Lebanon—to their attempt at encirclement. They were trying to encircle the Gulf states, and then there were Iran's ongoing efforts to deal with each of the Gulf states one-on-one, making possible an attempt to classify them in various degrees. All this, in addition to the escalation of the occupation of the islands, made the Iranian dilemma in the Gulf an enduring one.

When we add to all that Iran's position on Arab-Israeli peace, we have before us an Iranian foreign policy in search of an active role much like the policy of the Shah, with the difference—this time—of having a clear ideology, and not lacking a long reach.

Plus, there is in Iran a debate that is hidden from no one. For Iranian nationalism, which has begun to reawaken, does not look favorably upon the rule of Islamic clergymen, because of the latter's connection to Arabic language and culture, and perhaps because of their major interest in Arab affairs. This Iranian nationalist thinking views the Arab conquest of old Persia as an "invasion"; and it does notlook favorably upon the huge amounts of Iranian cash allocated for the "support of movements following the Iranian line," primarily in the Arab countries. The Iranian development program should, in their view, come first.

This anxiety and confusion in Iranian-Gulf relations is in need of review and reflection and the grasping of the true lessons of recent historical events. And if history is a good teacher as is said, and you want to extract from some of its events the fact that dialogue and coexistence are impossible between the Arabs and Iran, a pretext will not elude you. If you want to read some of its events positively for the possibility of dialogue, there is recent evidence for that too. The Arabs in the Gulf have had important experiences in tolerance and reaching rational solutions—they have forgotten them—but they are studying the records of international relations. For in 1933 there was a unique and unprecedented arbitration decision. It was the arbitration on the issue of Mount 'Aru, which stands on the border between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. After Yemeni forces occupied this mountain, and the failure of negotiations towards a regional sovereignty settlement, the then-Imam of Yemen sent a cable to King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud asking that the matter be settled through arbitration, with King 'Abd-al-'Aziz being the mediator. The Imam said that he would accept his decision and consider it final. King 'Abd-al-'Aziz consented—and made a decision against himself.

This is an event that some have forgotten, and it has not repeated itself. But might it repeat itself in the case of the Arab islands? The Shah, as we have indicated, made a

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courageous decision in 1969, just as the Iranian Government made a courageous decision in 1990. To safeguard good relations among the peoples of the region, who have been worn down by the struggle, and whose security has become a part of the world's security, will the Islamic Republic of Iran, as it celebrates the 15th anniversary of its revolution, answer the call of last week's 15th GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] summit in Bahrain by submitting the dispute over the Gulf islands to the International Court of Justice?

I believe it is a reasonable and logical call. Iran must accept it, understanding that in order to win the confidence of the world it must first win the confidence of its neighbors. This is the hope of the last six years of this century, and the hope of the peoples of the region, weakened by the sapping of their energies and their constant feeling of insecurity.

The time has come for us Arabs in the Gulf, and our Muslim neighbor on the other shore, Iran, to learn that while the struggle may appear to some politicians to achieve some tactical goal, its results are destructive to all. Let us look all around us and think it over.

*Iran, Iraq Said Crossing Nuclear Threshold

95WP0037A Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic
5 Dec 94 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] London. Middle Eastern countries are getting much closer than expected to crossing the nuclear threshold, which has so far been monopolized by the five UN Security Council states—the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France. Other states in the Third World are moving rapidly toward acquiring weapons of mass destruction. India and Pakistan, for example, already have such weapons.

An implicit and unplanned "gentleman's agreement" apparently exists among the Islamic states to contain the Israeli nuclear giant. Israel exists in a region in which it has no origin and has been gradually advancing in that area at the expense of other states and peoples. It has been supported by the biggest Western nuclear giant, which, in the absence of the "Soviet giant," has undermined the Eastern influence. The "Soviet giant," has become a Russian giant whose nuclear teeth still cause fear and should be taken into serious consideration.

Several quarters in Moscow, Kiev, and the capitals of Eastern Europe and the non-Arabic speaking Islamic republics think that the authorities in these states are energetically supporting the creation of a new nuclear deterrent to take their place, separate between them and the West, and constitute their first line of defense. This would be similar to the Western first line of defense, represented by Britain and France, to defend the interests of the United States. This line of defense, rather than the United States, would suffer the first blow in any future nuclear war. The Eastern countries think that their disintegration, which politically and demographically led to the disintegration of the Soviet Union, must not stand in the way of their military unification and winning over the Third World, which is currently lost in the labyrinth of Western policies, particularly U.S. policies. They think that their undeclared new alliance would have the same effect as the European wall built by Washington in the face of the East and its development since World War II. In view of what is being proved daily by the actions of the United States—the current sole superpower in the world—and the way the United States imposes its will on the weaker states with arrogance and unilateral decisions and dominates the United Nations, these quarters think that the long history of events demands a return to the two axes policy that existed before the Berlin Wall was demolished. They think this should be done before matters get worse and eventually reach the point of explosion between Russia and its allies, on the one hand, and the United States, on the other.

Signs of discord have begun to appear between Washington and Moscow on many hot international issues, such as the future of NATO, the future of the Eastern independent states, the Chinese issue, the future of Cuba, Iraq, Libya, the Middle Eastern issue, the Bosnian war, and the future of Asia and Africa. Consequently, the future does not look good. The Americans have violated their commitments and agreements with the countries of the former Soviet Union regarding the continued Russian leadership of these countries. They did this through covert penetration, direct military threats, extensive intelligence penetration, and technological commercial and economic invasion.

The Eastern European countries think that the West should compensate them for abandoning communism and adopting democracy and the free system. They should not be considered as having fallen into the American lap. The issues of freedom and democracy are not a Western invention nor a new American commodity. The communist revolution in 1917 was the pioneer of freedom and democracy against totalitarian monarchy and the system of repression and feudalism. Communism later deviated from its original goals and became the sword that chopped the head of freedom, which the West carried and made into an empty statue for false worship. The Eastern European peoples, however, were not "communist." They submitted unwillingly to a caravan of dictators, and they were the ones who subsequently created "perestroika" to get rid of these dictators and destroy their oppressive constitutions.

Secret Western studies confirm that Moscow has begun reviewing its profit and loss calculations on all the internal, European, and international levels. The world will witness a return to a new "cold war," with peaceful controls and military fangs, designed to restore the international balance and put the arrogant American genie back into the bottle of reason and logic before it is too late. This identifies the reasons for the current

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balance between Boris Yeltsin's submission to the West and the military wing's rebellion against his political decisions and the establishment of "self-rule" by the Russian generals and the "communist columns" in Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and other small Baltic states. Four years after the "great fall," the indications are that the Russian generals and communists have so far not abided by the instructions of their political leadership, which depends on the West to carry out its economic development plans.

Russian foreign ministry sources affirm that Yeltsin's administration has reviewed its foreign policy in the first three months of this year to restore unity at home, which the world thought no longer existed. This is being done after the Russian president has suffered the same "internal symptoms" his American counterpart Bill Clinton suffered regarding the failure of his internal economic and agricultural policy and the loans' policy, which prompted him eventually to look outside to recharge his administration. Yeltsin's administration is facing a different challenge, which will perhaps show his ability to defend the former communist regimes, despite all the sins and mistakes they have committed internally. Furthermore, Yeltsin has realized—perhaps before it is too late—that "whoever takes off his military uniform becomes naked." So he also reviewed his hesitant position toward his military commanders. He sought their forgiveness after he had disregarded them for a long time. He asked for their blessing for the military changes he made last month at the Defense Ministry whose "happy ending" could be the removal of Defense Minister Grachev.

With the Russian military regaining the initiative, the distorted picture of former Arab, Asian, and African allies is currently being polished. They have gained a new breathing space after they were about to be suffocated in the turbid American swamp. Since Russian forces, for the first time since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, landed in the Serbian part of Bosnia at the beginning of this year, the former Soviet allies have realized that the "sons" of Brezhnev and Andropov are still alive and the communist fetus in the womb of the present Russian administration is still kicking. They have also realized that the considerable flow of modern weapons and radioactive material to them through international channels—which the CIA with all its might could not block—are strong and "inevitable" indications that "the Russians are coming" and that "the world has not ended yet."

Citing Russian military sources and experts, including a general in a government weapon exports organization, press reports last week said that some states in the Middle East, including Iran and Iraq, are continuously receiving different types of weapons from an "uncontrolled Russian market." These weapons include the most advanced technology in guidance systems for antimissile missiles. The United States showed during the Gulf War that it has the sole advantage in the missile field. An urgent need became apparent on the opposite side, particularly in Iraq, for an air deterrent, and Moscow has compensated it for this deficiency in the past two years. What is more dangerous is that the Russian military and some Eastern countries have adopted the principle of opening their nuclear arsenal for the countries of the Third World to take as much as they can from it. This is because they want to establish a "new world military order" that includes the "vanquished" countries to serve as a counterbalance to the "new world (political) order" led by the United States to check its deviation and madness that have strongly been evident since the beginning of the nineties.

The Americans have been trying desperately to prevent nuclear and missile technology and giant guns from reaching Iraq, Iran, Korea, or even the mafia, the revolutionary organizations, and "extremist movements." However, they realize that they are just trying to obstruct and delay what is, nuclear-wise, inevitable in the coming 10 years. Based on this premise, a "rational" theory exists in the United States, calling for reshuffling the foreign policy cards and distributing them according to the new nuclear game. Advocates of this theory condemn the Clinton-Christoper-Bush policy that calls for "containing Iraq and Iran" and other states that will soon appear on the nuclear map. They call for a return to reason to deal beginning now with these states on the basis of the importance they will assume at the beginning of the 21st century.

However, it appears that there is little hope that Clinton, the "chance president," will absorb such changes. He has proved, despite his young age, that he is the most reactionary in his thinking, the most closed in his horizons, and the most limited in his vision in modern American presidential history. It seems there might not be any hope for any miracle of this sort during his term, which apparently will be short.

*Conference Addresses Islam, Near East New Order

95AE0014A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Dec 94 p 7

[Article by Samir Nasif: "London Conference on Intellectual, Legal Components of New Near East Order Calls for Shifting Economic Policies, True Understanding of Islam"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—On 19-20 December, the Centre for Islamic and Middle Eastern Law and the Centre for Near and Middle Eastern Studies at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) organized a conference on the subject of "the intellectual and legal components of the new Middle East system." Thinkers and specialists on economy, society, the Arabic literary heritage, politics, law, and the press spoke dealing with the subject from various perspectives.

One of the outstanding papers presented to the conference was contributed by Dr. Fadil al-Jalabi, supervisor

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of London's International Energy Centre, who spoke on "The Future of Oil in the Economy of the Middle East."

At the beginning of his lecture, al-Jalabi asked whether oil would create political stability in the future in the region. He assumed that the peace process would create political stability. Then he asked again, "What will this mean for the region's oil?"

He said that the 1973 war, during which the use of oil as a political weapon collapsed, brought about a great shock in the fuel policies of consumers in the Western countries, who reduced their dependence on Arab oil. The Khomeyni revolution in Iran led to a sharpening of this position and to a great increase in production in the North Sea, Mexico, and other regions at the expense of Middle Eastern oil. The result was a drop in OPEC production from 31 million barrels of oil a day in 1979 to 15 million in 1985.

Who, he asked, had been harmed by the drop in the price per barrel from $36 in 1981 to the current price of $18? The answer was that the Arab economy had been harmed, because the Gulf alone contains two-thirds of the world's petroleum reserve, and the Gulf region is the only one where the requirements for extracting more oil are available. At a time when reserves in the world's other regions are shrinking, oil reserves in the Middle East are sufficient for more than a hundred years.

He stressed that the world has begun to be convinced of the reality of the Gulf's short- and long-term economic resources and has begun to see the soundness of the position that relies on Arab oil. He pointed out how economic it is and the low cost involved in extracting it and exploiting its products. "The cost of finding and developing a barrel of Arab oil is less than in the rest of the world. This means that the economic return from a barrel is higher and forms a real investment opportunity."

He added: "The world needs 10 million additional barrels a day. Saudi Arabia alone is capable of providing it. This constitutes new wealth for the Arabs, wealth that can propel the Arab economy and lead to its diversification."

He indicated that some Gulf countries had not realized the profits that might have been realized because they had not followed the best economic policies. This had led to indebtedness to foreign banks. What was needed was a serious review of the economy of these countries, study of the legal and commercial frameworks of oil companies, and consideration of the oil nationalization question from a new perspective.

He criticized OPEC's uneconomical oil-pricing policy that aims at lowering production to maintain a certain price. He said that the oil countries outside OPEC were benefiting from the $18 price: they were increasing their production at the expense of the Gulf countries, so that the latter were in financial straits and needed quick income. The more the price of a barrel increased, the more production outside the Gulf increased, and the more the Gulf was deprived of additional revenues.

He advocated exploiting the favorable geographical location of countries such as Syria, Lebanon, and Turkey and piping Gulf oil across Arab territory instead of shipping it via the Cape of Good Hope. He indicated that peace would make it possible again to lay pipelines to Syria and Lebanon (the Mediterranean) and revive the two countries' ports that had suffered from security incidents in recent years.

Peace and security in the entire region will lead Gulf leaders to believe that exportation via the Gulf of Hormuz is not more secure, better, and more economical than laying pipelines to the Mediterranean. The Mediterranean ports are vital in terms of geographical and environmental advantages, transportation, and the building of refineries. It will then be possible to export oil not as crude, but after refining. Oil products will be able to be transported in small ships, and it will be possible to create a public oil market like the one in Singapore.

He added: "If the oil industry moves to Mediterranean ports, it will create a market, business opportunities, and an important source of increased income."

Mayy Yamani

Dr. Mayy Yamani, a researcher at the SOAS Centre for Islamic Jurisprudence and Middle Eastern Law, spoke about "Women, Equality, and Work" in the Arab world. Her lecture began with the statement that it is not easy to discuss the role of women. She spoke about the influence of economic and political factors in changing the role of women: how we find that in some North African Arab countries economic requirements imposed themselves and opened the way for women to work even in jobs earmarked for men. She also pointed out how the sending of an enormous number of Iraqi men to the front in Iraq's war with Iran led to an increase in the number of women working in factories and on farms. The number of females working in government agencies also rose, as it subsequently rose in the private and public sector.

She stressed the need not to downplay the economic factor that women represent in the Arab world. She stated that in Saudi Arabia, where she had conducted studies and research, women play a fundamental business role linked to the Islamic values on which this society was founded; however, this fact was difficult to observe from the outside. Saudi women, she said, participate in individual investments and business activities in addition to their family role.

She explained that Saudi women were now becoming interested in learning, whereas in the fifties and sixties this area had been restricted to the daughters of the elite whose families would send them to study abroad.

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She added: "One can say that most Saudi women now have a degree of education and are eager to work, based on the prophetic traditions that encourage learning."

Al-Yamani cited statistics indicating that 2,800 women were registered in the 1994 Jeddah commercial register in jobs in which there is no mingling of the sexes. They also enter the industrial and export fields. She added: "Saudi women have been able to invest in real estate and compound their wealth. About 50 percent of Jeddah's real estate is owned by women. The figure in Riyadh is 25 percent. It is 40 percent for Saudi Arabia as a whole."

She emphasized that Saudi women know their legitimate rights. The Mother of the Believers, Khadijah, the wife of the Prophet Muhammad, owned a business, and the Prophet was an employee of hers.

She compared the fields in which women may work in Saudi Arabia with those in other Gulf countries. She emphasized their role in government jobs in Kuwait, the Emirates, Bahrain, and Oman. She noted women's equality of membership with men on the Omani Consultative Council in accordance with a decision last October, and she pointed to even greater developments in this area in other Arab countries that had enabled women to be deputy ministers and ministers.

Armanazi

Mr. Ghayth Armanazi, head of the Arab League's London mission, spoke on "The Arab League and the New Middle East." He criticized the use of the term Middle East because it led to "downplaying or ignoring the bond of Arabness among the peoples of the region." He said, "One must not rush off in the wrong direction with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres into a Middle Eastern regional system existing only on paper without our participation."

He asked, "Shall we leave planning to those who would plan for our future? Or shall we take our destiny into our own hands as Arabs?"

He spoke about "the Israelis' eagerness to oppose Arabness and to describe the Arabs as a collection of minorities lacking a single source of heritage." He spoke of how the Israelis were concentrating on the economic factor as a goal that would guarantee stability. In that case, he thought, "decisionmaking will go to the economically strongest."

The Arab League, he thought, was concerned with something else. It grew up around the idea of Arabness. "It did not arise for economic goals, but because of an Arab demand for unity." He said that the League's present problem was "lack of united political will on the part of members and the absence of seriousness of intentions."

He spoke about "a tendency toward realism and pragmatism in the Arab world currently." He predicted "a detente soon in Arab-Arab relations." He warned against the development of "a new system as an alternative to the Arab League and dominating it." He said that such a system was "unacceptable and unrealistic; heritage, culture, and language would not allow it to emerge." He called for "supporting the Arabs' mother organization, the Arab League, and for giving it what it required."

Jihad al-Khazin

Jihad al-Khazin, the editor-in-chief of AL-HAYAH newspaper, spoke about "The Press and the Future of Freedoms in the Arab World." He indicated his lack of confidence that the new Middle East was better than the past. He called for participation by the Arab peoples in the choices of peace—choices which he stressed should not be limited to leaders. He considered the present peace to be bad, and that if it became even worse it would lead to the development of new disasters.

He indicated that the new Arabic press would be like the new Middle East. If the new Middle East is democratic and open, the press will be like it. If it remains the same, the press will do likewise.

He compared the limited distribution of Arabic newspapers to the tremendous sales levels of Western and American newspapers. He said that the fall in revenues was having an effect on freedoms. He pointed out that complete freedom of the press did not exist anywhere in the world and that censorship in different forms existed whatever the place.

About the future he said: "I have no crystal ball. I am not a fortune teller. The Arabic press might see more freedoms if the peace process succeeds. If the peace is bad, the press may be subjected to more restrictions. However, the development of technology may make it impossible to restrict freedoms."

Shaykh Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum

Shaykh Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum from al-Najaf spoke next on "Islamists and the Choice of Democracy." He said that the position of Islamists toward democracy was linked to the light in which they understood democracy. Those who considered it a doctrine contrary to Islam rejected it. Those who considered it a tool to achieve popular participation considered it possible. He noted the difficulty of reconciling the two positions, but said that he would try to do so. He called for a commitment to democracy to combat backwardness. At the same time he urged that some outmoded conceptions of democracy be ruled out. These included Greek democracy, in which women and slaves were deprived, and democracies that contradicted their own practices as systems of government.

He said that the concept of democracy had developed in recent years and now implied the broadest participation of all groups of the people. He called for affirming its importance in the Arab world and for changing its course, but he warned that the nature of the government in some Arab countries would not permit this. He saw democracy as a tool, not a doctrine or ideology.

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He stated that he believed that "in Islam there are broad areas for the adoption and practice of democracy without disobeying God's ordinances. The door of independent judgment is open and a vacant area exists. Reason is one of the sources of legislation, and reason cannot go against revelation."

He saw freedom of opinion and expression as a gift of God to His worshipers, whom He did not create as slaves, but as free human beings responsible for building their communities.

Speaking of the elements of democracy, he said that its foundations were mutual consultation, political pluralism, and alternation of authority. About the concept of democracy he said, "Its essence is giving people freedom to elect those who represent them in parliament and enabling others to express other opinions even if they disagree."

He indicated that he was one of democracy's victims: "We called for it in Iraq, and we were scattered."

He said that the tools of democracy—election, referendum, a plurality of political parties, freedom of the press, and an independent judiciary—did not contradict Islam, provided that they did not impair its essence.

He stressed that monopolization of power was rejected in Islam and that the people determined who had the right to assume power. Alternation of power could be accepted by Islamists, provided that they could work to clarify what was correct after yielding power. He concluded by saying, "Many of our rulers are sitting on power. They claim to be spreading Islam while monopolizing power. We must not accept this."

Al-Surani

Raji al-Surani from the Gaza Center for Rights and Laws spoke about "Political Restrictions and Mechanisms for Defense." He stated that Israel was dealing with the new Palestinian Authority [PA] in the self-rule areas in the same way that it dealt with Palestinians before the period of peace. Israel wanted to make Yasir 'Arafat's job impossible. He said he felt insulted by Israel's method of dealing with the self-rule authority. He described the former condition of Palestinians in al-Fakihani, Lebanon, as "better than their current situation" in terms of their independence.

He indicated that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was not "a gang, as some would portray it." There was obvious exaggeration in the description of its situation. Its role would continue as long as the PA was unable to improve the situation. He said that Palestinian despair was so great that condemnation of operations against Israeli civilians was not as great as it was in the past.

Shibli Malat

On the first day of the conference Dr. Shibli Malat, professor of Islamic law at SOAS, spoke on "The Meaning of Freedom of Movement and Settlement in the Middle East." He focused on how difficult it is for Arabs to move between Arab countries because of visa requirements caused by the atmosphere of mistrust pervading political and economic relations.

Malat compared the laws and concepts in force in the Middle East to those applied in other regions of the world, such as Europe. He dealt with the legal provisions applied in the West. These link the individual's freedom of movement and period of residence with realistic concepts related to the kind of work, instead of focusing on the movement of groups and general political and social matters.

He called on the Middle East to take similar steps in the area of defining movement rights for workers, students, families, and individuals. He indicated that "we in the Middle East are very far from such results."

He criticized what he called "problems resulting from a logic that does not give to the individual's freedom to move, work, and settle the attention that has been given to it in Europe. This freedom represents the most important success of the European experience for the people of Europe. However, in the Middle East lack of consideration for the individual remains the norm."

Adonis

In his speech on "The Dilemma of Modernism in Arab Society," the poet Adonis pointed out three sources of confusion about the subject. The first is that modernism is discussed as a purely theoretical subject and usually as a purely poetic and artistic problem. The discussion takes place without reference to the genesis of modernism conceptually in Arab history and without a precise specification of its content. The second source of confusion is that Arab modernism and its problems are seen through ideas and terms not derived from Arab reality, but taken from the lexicon of Western modernism. The third source of confusion is the question of criterion and evaluation: How and by what criterion should we evaluate what we call Arab modernism?

He said that these sources of confusion had generated a dilemma for him about how to overcome this perplexity.

He said that describing Arab society as modern and possessing a modern culture distances us from reality. "What prevails socially and culturally are regimes and oppositions that repudiate, condemn, and deny individualism. Every fundamentalism is based on the desire to repeat history religiously, nationally, or in both ways. It is a collective general will that negates individualism and rejects the other who is different."

The reality he described could, he thought, be overcome by moving from passivity to activity—the production of new meaning or meanings that would end traditional meanings and bring about an epistemological revolution regarding the fundamentals and their texts. These would be seen not as certitude, but as possibility. He called for

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thinking and acting with a vision that deems history open without an ending. No one knows how history will happen because it is the result of human activity alone. The problem, he holds, is not reforming Arab society, but recreating it.

Al-'Azamah

Professor 'Aziz al-'Azamah of Britain's Exeter University spoke on "Arab Secularism and the Context of Its Opposites." He thinks that "the secular discourse opposing the claims of fundamentalism is in this regard only a natural reaction of Arab societies to religious projects that contradict the course of modern Arab history."

He stated that "our entry into secularism was an implicit and natural entry." The claim to be returning to Islamic fundamentals is at best a metaphorical statement, certainly symbolic, and contains a considerable amount of falsification of the Islamic heritage.

One can say that it is not the international political ideas that have been imported, but rather the elements of the Islamic past from which we were cut off. Thus, affiliation with the groups of political Islam is tantamount to a new social and cultural education that moves to lay the foundations of an alternative society. It means an imposition on the reality of the Arabs by means of textual chains of authority with only imaginary irrelevance to Arab life, by terrorizing men and women citizens as happened in Algeria and in Tunisia in 1989, and by assassinating intellectuals as in Algeria, Egypt, and Lebanon in order to restore them all to their "authentic and true character."

Ridwan al-Sayyid

Ridwan al-Sayyid, professor of Islamic studies at the Lebanese University, spoke on "Movements of Political Islam and the Future." The ideas of the political groups, he held, were lacking in two ways. First, they employed and used texts without regard to their circumstances, reusing them in different and altered circumstances. Second, the political dimension had retreated and ideology had been put before method and reflection. It was as if the political opposition wanted to obtain power not for the sake of reform but as a savior and rescuer.

After discussing the writings of the movements of political Islam and their development from the twenties to the sixties and seventies, al-Sayyid said: "The real problem in militant political Islam is that it appeared and became established in environments that have lacked culture and politics since the late fifties." This caused these movements to rely on a method of judging a thing by its origin. They avoid the method of analogy and deduction that religious scholars used in olden times to bring the texts closer to a changing reality.

He saw the Islamists as the main opposition now. "The public does not seem to be afraid or anxious about them." Perhaps their strength can be attributed to "the weakness of their rivals in authority." The latter "lack legitimacy, which has eroded over the last four decades."

He added: "The public will not turn away from them quickly, especially as the Islamization of private and public life continues apace." There is "a general feeling of frustration now in the eastern and western parts of the Arab world due to economic, social, and political reasons." Change, "which may seem relatively easy on the international level, does not seem so easy in the region of the Arab East."

Finally, al-Sayyid asked about "the political and economic meanings of the Islamic solution" and how the movements of political Islam would confront the problems of "the enormous despair that dictatorial regimes and Western dependency have created."

Inter-Arab Affairs

Damascus Declaration States Issue Statement

NC0602155395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—At the end of their meeting in Cairo today, the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states stressed the importance of continued work to deepen coordination and cooperation between the member states in implementation of the Declaration's principles and objectives.

A statement read by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that boosting common Arab action and cooperation among the states of the Declaration represents a basis that can be built upon within the framework of the Arab League.

The ministers reviewed the paper presented by Egypt at the request of the Declaration states and the other paper presented by the Gulf Cooperation Council states. They agreed to work out a comprehensive view of this cooperation as soon as possible to present it to their governments.

The statement said that the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration welcomed the statement issued by the tripartite summit in Alexandria on 29 December 1994, which was attended by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, concerning the need to improve the Arab situation and maintain the Arab identity through bolstering the role of the Arab League and its institutions so that the League will remain the umbrella Arab establishment for all Arab efforts in keeping with the lofty objectives of the Arab League Charter.

The statement said the ministers reviewed the developments of the Middle East peace process out of the eight countries' eagerness to achieve a just and comprehensive

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peace in the region as a strategic option, and the sincere efforts they made to remove the obstacles in the way of the peace process.

The ministers stressed that this peace must be based on Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425; the principle of land for peace; and the exercise by the Palestinian people of their national and political rights. In this context, the ministers emphasized their firm support for Syria's just demands and they highly appreciated Syria's position and serious efforts to render the peace process successful.

The ministers also stressed their demand for Israeli withdrawal from all the Golan up to the 4 June 1967 line, from south Lebanon, and from the occupied Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem, and for enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate right to self-determination.

The ministers called on the world community, especially the cosponsors of the peace process in the region—the United States and Russia—to work persistently to bridge the gaps and remove the obstacles that the Israeli side places in the way to peace.

The ministers stressed that the comprehensive peace must create equal and balanced security for all sides.

The ministers also stressed that Israel's remaining outside the umbrella of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty conflicts with the achievement of security, peace, stability, and development in the region, and fails to make the treaty effective and give it a universal nature.

The ministers called on Israel to join the treaty and to place its nuclear facilities under the safeguard system of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The statement went on to say that the foreign ministers discussed Iraq's implementation of the Security Council's resolutions on its aggression against Kuwait.

The ministers regarded the Republic of Iraq's recognition of the State of Kuwait's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and international borders in accordance with the demands of Resolutions 687 and 833 as an important step in the right direction toward Iraq's implementation of all the relevant Security Council resolutions. They stressed the need to release all the Kuwaiti and other prisoners and detainees and to return all possessions and called on Iraq to comply with Security Council Resolution 949 by refraining from any provocative or hostile action that threatens Kuwait and the countries of the region.

The ministers reiterated their support and deep concern about Iraq's unity, sovereignty, and territorial safety and their sympathy with the fraternal Iraqi people. They called on Iraq to implement all the Security Council resolutions to end the fraternal Iraqi people's suffering.

The statement said that the ministers expressed deep regret about Iran's lack of response to the United Arab Emirates' [UAE] repeated calls, especially the initiative of UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, to hold a serious and direct dialogue to end the Iranian occupation of the three UAE islands—Tunb al- Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa—in accordance with international laws and charters and on the basis of the principles of good neighborliness and mutual respect between countries.

The ministers reiterated their support and backing for the UAE's sovereignty over the three islands and called on Iran to refer the issue of these islands to the International Court of Justice.

The foreign ministers reviewed the Serbian aggression against the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the continued bloodshed to which the Chechen people are being subjected. They expressed their deep regret for the continued bloodshed and called on the warring parties to solve their problems through dialogue and negotiations.

The ministers also reviewed the situation in Somalia and Afghanistan and called on the warring parties to enter into a serious dialogue to resolve their differences, achieve national reconciliation, and protect their peoples' unity and territorial integrity.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the foreign ministers expressed their deep thanks to the Arab Republic of Egypt for its hospitality. They said that they are looking forward to their next meeting in the State of Bahrain during the first half of July to continue the process of coordination and consultations between their countries.

Musa: Israel's Exclusion From NPT Unacceptable

NC0602194995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the delegations to the Damascus Declaration conference raised the issue of Israel's nuclear arms. He said the delegations showed extreme interest in this issue, especially excluding Israel from joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. He said no one accepts this exclusion.

Musa said that the ministers also raised the subjects of common action within the framework of the Declaration, Arab reconciliation, the tripartite summit, and the quadripartite summit.

Syrian, Saudi Foreign Ministers Meet in Cairo

JN0602173395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at his residence in Cairo this afternoon.

Talks dealt with results of the 10th periodical meeting of the foreign ministers of Damascus Declaration states. Developments in the region and bilateral fraternal relations were also discussed.

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Jordan's Foreign Minister Meets Arab League Chief

NC0502170695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has met with Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti.

The Jordanian minister said Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid will visit Jordan in March to discuss Arab and world developments and the agenda of the Arab League Council's next session to be chaired by Jordan. [passage omitted]

Discussing weapons of mass destruction, the Jordanian foreign minister said his country has reached an understanding with Israel to conclude an agreement under which there will be a commitment to create an area free of weapons of mass destruction.

Commenting on the Palestinian refugees, he said that an agreement has been reached to resolve the issue through the peace conference's multilateral talks.

League Chief, Palestinian Envoy Discuss Peace Talks

NC3101181895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met this afternoon with Ambassador Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council and Palestine's permanent representative to the Arab League.

Ambassador Muhammad Subayh stated that the meeting was very useful. He said: I informed Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid of the situation inside the Palestinian territories, developments in the peace process in the region, and President Yasir 'Arafat's meetings with Arab leaders recently.

He added that the meeting also addressed the issue of Israeli settlement in the occupied Arab territories and the Arab peace process.

He noted in a statement after the meeting that he delivered a message from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to the Arab League secretary general in which 'Arafat congratulated 'Abd-al-Majid on the advent of the month of Ramadan.

On the Palestinian stand regarding the Israeli call to segregate the Palestinians and Israelis, Ambassador Muhammad Subayh said that if the call is linked to holding elections and the withdrawal of the Israeli army, then we support such segregation. However, if the objective is group punishment of the Palestinian people, then this is an oppressive measure which is rejected by all international norms.

He said that the Palestinian people are against such segregation because it violates the Fourth Geneva Convention, UN resolutions, and international law.

With respect to reports that Israel is resorting to laborers from Thailand to work inside Israel as an alternative to the Palestinians, Ambassador Subayh said they will not succeed in this move because it will create many problems, particularly from the point of view of language, performance, and social habits.

*Kuwaiti-Egyptian Rift Reported Over Iraqi Spy Case

95LH0062A Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 19 Dec 94 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] A sudden crisis between Egypt and Kuwait is being watched in diplomatic and judicial circles in both countries. The cause is an Egyptian woman named Huda Imam, accused by the Kuwaiti authorities of spying for Iraq. She was given the death sentence in absentia in Kuwait, in Case No. 1248 for 1991 (criminal case 82/91) State Security, after she had fled to Egypt.

The crisis began quietly at the beginning of 1994 and was confined to an exchange of official letters. Kuwait was content to request that the Egyptian authorities surrender Huda Imam in order that the death sentence issued against her could be implemented, but Cairo replied that Egypt would not hand over one of its citizens and that Kuwait must send the case records of the Egyptian suspect's trial.

Despite that, the crisis has increased in intensity in recent days, specifically, since 20 November 1994, when the Egyptian District Attorney's Office of al-Sayyidah Zaynab, which conducted the investigation of Huda Imam, decided on a discontinuance of the case, because of insufficient evidence, without recognizing the charge levelled against her. This infuriated Kuwait and caused it to lodge an official protest, especially since the husband of the Egyptian woman accused of spying is a Kuwaiti police officer. He has accused his wife of handing him over to the Iraqi forces, who threw him in prison.

Kuwait was not content with the diplomatic protest. On the contrary, it escalated the issue to the Ministry of Justice and judicial agencies in Kuwait, in order to address Egyptian judicial agencies directly. Kuwait also sent letters and faxes to responsible Egyptian authorities and to the Council of Arab Interior Ministers. In these letters, a connection was made between Kuwait's remaining silent when the Egyptian authorities arrested the Kuwaiti, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jubayl, a member of the Kuwaiti Revival of Islamic Heritage Society, who was accused of financing terrorism, before his recent release, and the need for Egypt's compliance with the Kuwaiti judicial verdict issued against the woman accused of spying for Iraq.

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Matters increased in intensity because Kuwait, when it confirmed Egypt's insistence on defending the Egyptian woman, resorted to a spiteful trick, claiming that Huda Imam was a Kuwaiti citizen and not Egyptian. It was maintained that when she married a Kuwaiti police officer, she acquired citizenship. The Egyptian judicial authorities responded that Egyptian law does not strip nationality from an Egyptian who acquires the citizenship of another country. If Huda Imam held both Egyptian and Kuwaiti citizenships, the principle is that she is Egyptian.

The Kuwaiti authorities sent a letter to the Council of Arab Interior Ministers which, in turn, sent it to the Arab Criminal Police in Cairo, saying: "We request the arrest of the woman Huda Mustafa Imam, of Kuwaiti nationality. When she is found, inform us so that she may be extradited by the usual legal methods to the petitioning Kuwaiti authorities."

The Kuwaiti authorities themselves had sent a letter to the Egyptian Ministry of Interior, stating: "Arrest Order—Kuwaiti Ministry of Justice—Deputy Public Prosecutor, and Chief of the Office of Criminal Execution and Foreign Liaison Affairs: "We have the honor to submit—after reviewing the absentia sentence issued by the State Security Court in its session of 30 May 1992 in criminal case No. 1348 for 1993 (56/1991 [pending] 82/91 State Security) which sentenced to death the accused Huda Mustafa Imam, charged with cooperating with and spying for the Iraqi occupation forces, that she revealed her husband's military capacity and, thereby, enabled the Iraqi authorities to arrest and imprison him, search his home, and seize documents proving his military capacity. His sister was also arrested. Therefore, we order the condemned one, Huda Mustafa Imam, be arrested wherever she is found and brought to the Public Prosecutor for implementation of the sentence issued against her. Note that investigation has determined that she is in the Arab Republic of Egypt."

In fact, the Egyptian authorities went to Huda Imam's address in Cairo, and she was taken to the Egyptian Public Prosecutor, who asked the Kuwaiti authorities to send the file of extradition. Huda was released until the file arrived. Then, the case was turned over to the District Attorney's Office of al-Sayyidah Zaynab, which began an intensive investigation of the accused, after the Kuwaiti authorities had sent the extradition file and all case documents.

Immediately after being released by the al-Sayyidah Zaynab office, which terminated its investigations on 20 November 1994, AL-MUHARRIR asked Huda Imam about the truth of the charges leveled against her. She said: "Now I can speak. The Kuwaiti police officer, Sa'id Mubarak 'Abdallah, is my husband and the father of my daughter, May. But, marital disputes between us brought us to court. When the Iraqi forces entered Kuwait, he was drunk and insisted on going with me into the street in order to show me his ability to bribe the Iraqi troops. He did, in fact, give them gifts and tape recorders. When the Iraqi troops searched our car, they discovered my husband's military identity. They arrested him and told me to leave. As soon as the war ended, I returned to Egypt with an official exit permission issued by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior.

"Now, I am afraid for my life, especially since my husband is a Kuwaiti police officer who has influence and authority. I have taken legal action, in which I am requesting a divorce."

In the investigations conducted by the al-Sayyidah Zaynab office, Huda Imam submitted official documents pertaining to a criminal court order issued against her husband, the Kuwaiti police officer, concerning the facts of an attack against her, in Case No. 3038/89, Kuwaiti Criminal Court, and a support judgment issued against him in No. 870/1989. Both documents, issued by the Kuwaiti Public Prosecutor's Office concerning criminal cases against her husband, the Kuwaiti police officer, confirmed that he has a penchant for alcoholic beverages and relationships with women, and that he did other things. A certificate of health issued by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health indicates that her husband is afflicted with a chronic sexual disease.

In the prosecutor's memorandum that suspended the case, it was stated: "The evidence that the accused's death sentence was based on is inadequate to convict her. There is a disparity between it and her submission to the Criminal Court, since it was limited only to the statements of her husband, the Kuwaiti police officer. The documents were devoid of any other evidence that would assist in proving the charges.

"Report No. 4105 for 1994, al-Sayyidah Zaynab District, registered with regard to No. 20 for 1993 - criminal extradition, has been discontinued."

As a result of that, Kuwait escalated the case to the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, insisting that Huda Imam be considered a Kuwaiti. The case is still active.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 25 Jan

NC0202131395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 25 January edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-NUR that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Amendment of Rent Law Welcomed
2. Prominent Medical Association Members Arrested
3. Al-Azhar Graduates' Low Standards Criticized
4. Preparations for Ramadan Ridiculed
5. France Berated Over Treatment of Muslims
6. Head Scarf Ban Ignored by Female Students

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7. State Treatment of Devout Teachers Criticized
8. Writer Lists Obstacles to Islam-Oriented Sciences
9. Shaykh al-Ghazali Defended on Charge of Extremism

AMENDMENT OF RENT LAW WELCOMED

A 350-word report on pages 1 and 2 attributed to the paper's legal editor welcomes the government's proposal to amend the property rental law, saying it is "in line with Islamic shari'ah." The report says the proposed amendment tackles only some of the irregularities in the current law, a law that has caused the housing crisis and "the closure by owners of around 1 million apartments" and "has also deterred investors from investing in building apartments for rent."

PROMINENT MEDICAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ARRESTED

An 80-word unattributed report on page 1 gives the names of some of the most prominent leaders of the Medical Association who were recently arrested in the security forces' sweep that netted leading figures in the Muslim Brotherhood organization. The report does not mention the organization by name but says they were arrested on charges of "belonging to an illegal organization that is inciting hatred of the ruling regime."

AL-AZHAR GRADUATES' LOW STANDARDS CRITICIZED

A 100-word unattributed report on the front page says Muslim preacher Ahmad Didat criticized the low standards of preachers graduating from al-Azhar University and said that the majority of them do not speak the language of the countries they are sent to preach Islam in. Speaking at the Conference on Islam and Arab Culture in the New World, which was organized in Cairo by the Faysal Benevolent Foundation, he also called on "Muslims to confront Israel intellectually, because there can be no peace with Jews at any price."

PREPARATIONS FOR RAMADAN RIDICULED

An unattributed 130-word report on page 1 criticizes materialistic preparations for Ramadan. It says these preparations by hotels and television stations are focusing on providing enough food and entertainment at the expense of the spiritual aspects of this holy month. It adds that Ramadan "has turned into a great celebration of vice and food instead of being a physical and spiritual revival for the whole year."

FRANCE BERATED OVER TREATMENT OF MUSLIMS

A 700-word article by Chief Editor Muhammad Hassan on page 2 deals with the issue of Islam in France and what he calls the French authorities' campaign against the 5 million Muslims there. Saying that the debate raging in France since the early seventies arose because of the Muslims' urgent need to have mosques for prayer, the writer argues that France has a wrong concept of Islam and that the French "look at Islam with a blind eye. They cannot see beyond the distorted image of the religion of tolerance and its rightful and fair call for reform." The writer then argues that the 5 million Muslims are increasing and are becoming part of the social fabric. He then asserts that French politicians have been exploiting this issue in their election campaigns as a "winning card used for political consumption" and states that this attitude puts France, which claims to be the land of liberty, in the same corner with the imperialist countries, at the hands of which Muslims suffered for centuries. He urges France to review its stance on Muslims and heed their fear of racial discrimination and reduced job opportunities. Concluding his article, Muhammad Hassan says: "Historically, France is the mother of religious bigotry and is now formulating European Union policy in its capacity as the current chairman to make that stance supportive of the U.S. one, which is unfair to Muslims everywhere."

HEAD SCARF BAN IGNORED BY FEMALE STUDENTS

A 1,000-word investigative report by Muhammad Ahmad on page 3 boasts about the government's failure to ban female students from wearing head scarfs. The writer starts by reviewing the debate that began with a decision by the education minister in July 1994 to ban the wearing of the head scarf without parents' written approval and the Administrative Court's ruling in August calling the decision illegal. This was followed by the al-Azhar fatwa committee's ruling that backed the right to wear the head scarf. The writer then interviews some teachers and parents of female students and they come out unanimously in favor of head scarfs. But the paper does not give their names, "out of fear of repression and fabricated reports." One parent says that some teachers and headmasters fear God and did not implement the minister's decision, while another says that signing the approval form was meaningless, since it would not change their view that girls must don the head scarf.

STATE TREATMENT OF DEVOUT TEACHERS CRITICIZED

In a 400-word column on page 3, Dr. al-Sayyid Rizq al-Tawil lashes out at those advocating purging the "educational system of the extremists and terrorists who have penetrated its walls and led the young on the path of terrorism." He says the target of the campaign are "some Muslim youths who follow the rules of their religion, have let their beards grow, and who urge their students to follow Islamic morals and behavior or some female teachers who have donned the head scarf and become an example for their students to follow." He says a teacher wearing a scarf who urges her students to wear modest clothes is not an extremist who deserves to be transferred or removed; "she is performing a duty dictated by her God and religion." After noting that this is in line with Egypt's Constitution, he criticizes the education minister for being preoccupied with these people

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and for replacing these teachers with others who are not so devoted. He adds that this does not help the development of education, which should be based on Egypt's position in the Islamic world and Africa.

WRITER LISTS OBSTACLES TO ISLAM-ORIENTED SCIENCES

A 3,000-word study by Dr. Muhammad Amin Ibrahim, from the Islamic Studies College at al-Minya University, lists the obstacles to giving sciences an Islamic direction. He lists the first as a lack of proper understanding of Islam and the existence of fossilized thinking that sticks to the old and refuses to accept the new. The second, he says, is that some extremists reject anything new because they see it as outside the sphere of Islamic thinking, even though "Islam is the religion of evolvement and ideas and does not conflict with renewal and development that are beneficial, that do not harm, and that do not conflict with religion and its tenets." The writer lists the third reason as a lack of trained cadres and a reliance on foreigners instead of local specialists. Coming to the fourth reason, he says it is terrorism. He argues that "terrorism by those who claim custodianship of Muslims' affairs in their capacity as the religious leadership makes many intellectuals refrain from expressing their views on many issues, particularly education and culture, and because they fear being oppressed by this group of people." To this, the writer adds what he calls the terrorism of the authority and rulers in many Islamic countries "who hate anything new that brings cordiality or unity to Muslims," adding that these rulers have no qualms "about jumping on anything that bears Islam's traits or on those who are affiliated with Islam, because they fear that their thrones will be shaken or that Islamic ideas and views will anger their masters and sources of wealth." He then argues that intellectual terrorism is "the most dangerous form of terrorism, because it prevents many reformists from presenting their views and opinions, especially on culture and religion, if these conflict with the ideas of those who have spread their own ideas and deceived their peoples and nations." The fifth reason in the writer's view are alien ideas planted by the West, such as secularism, nationalism, women's liberation, and separating state and religion. The sixth reason is the inadequate family upbringing in which many parents try to interest their children in foreign languages and sciences out of their belief that this is a sign of progress. The writer lists the media as the seventh reason, saying they concentrate on giving Western views and ideals at the expense of religious and ideological beliefs. The eighth and final reason given by the writer is a perceived lack of interest in religious teaching, especially during a child's formative years. This, he says, makes students grow up with the idea "that religion is marginal in their lives and is not on a par with sciences and other subjects."

SHAYKH AL-GHAZALI DEFENDED ON CHARGE OF EXTREMISM

A 4,000-word report by 'Abd-al-Rasul al-Zarqani on page 4 is a defense of noted Muslim scholar Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali. He takes the various charges leveled against him by leftists and secularists, mainly the charge of extremism, and says that the shaykh is not an extremist; he wants only "to have Article 2 of the Constitution applied, alcohol and vice banned, and moral rules for arts and literature laid down." Defending the shaykh against the accusations, the writer quotes extensively from his published works to prove that he is not an extremist, but an adherent of Islam's tenets.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 27 Jan

NC0202164295

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 27 January edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Writer Links Muslim Brothers' Arrests to Elections
2. Writer Warns Government Against Clash With Brotherhood
3. Antinormalization Rally Held
4. Chief Editor on Antinormalization, Democracy
5. Former Army Chief Discusses Israeli Aims
6. Recent Violence in al-Minya Governorate Reviewed
7. Interview With Alija Izetbegovic

WRITER LINKS MUSLIM BROTHERS' ARRESTS TO ELECTIONS

In a 450-word article entitled "Attacking the Brothers" on page 12, Mahmud Bakri describes the recent arrests of Muslim Brotherhood officials as "the latest fad in a governmental record full of violations of liberties."

He says that rather than learn a lesson from the strong public reaction to its earlier detention of Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn, the government plans to level accusations at the recently arrested "leaders and symbols" of the Brotherhood in order to keep them behind bars for a long time and pave the way for the ruling party to dominate the upcoming People's Assembly and professional associations elections.

He expects that the arrests will have the opposite effect to the one that the government desires and declares that it "will pay the price for its action at the next polls."

WRITER WARNS GOVERNMENT AGAINST CLASH WITH BROTHERHOOD

Another comment on the same issue is a 700-word article entitled "Towards a Supreme National Reconciliation" by Jamal al-Banna on page 5. The writer, who declares that he has neither any official status in the Muslim Brotherhood or any links with the government, says he is writing this comment because he wants to "spare the authorities from being dragged into a clash with a major popular bloc." He notes it is not the government but rather the country that he wishes to protect from the consequences of such a confrontation.

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While admitting that the Muslim Brothers have some shortcomings, which he wrote about "some 40 years ago," he praises them for "denouncing—during the monarchical era—the divisions caused by the existence of political parties, notably th[illegible] turn power into a prize to be won." He al[illegible] struggles against the Israelis and the Br[illegible]es that "if God had wished that they and [former President Jamal] 'Abd-al-Nasir should agree, the 1967 defeat would not have taken place and we would not have lost everything."

Declaring that "no one believes those unsavory rumors about some sort of cooperation between the Muslim Brothers and the frenzied wings who have gone astray and who misunderstand Islam," he says that extremism and terrorism were not known in the country until after " 'Abd-al-Nasir's detentions and tortures" and as a result "of [former President Anwar] al-Sadat's policies."

Al-Banna urges President Mubarak to seek a reconciliation with all popular forces and warns: "If the remnants of insignificant groups in the far reaches of Upper Egypt have exhausted the security forces and weakened the economy, to what extent would an all-out confrontation between the authorities and the Muslim Brothers go?"

ANTINORMALIZATION RALLY HELD

AL-SHA'B devotes page 4 to three reports on a "political rally" organized by the "Popular Movement for the Opposition of Zionism" at the headquarters of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping on 23 January. The first report, a 1,200-word narrative of the event by Khalid Yunus, says that speakers at the rally "affirmed that the concept of Middle Easternism is a colonialist scheme seeking to dominate the Arab region, that Israel wants normalization soon because it knows that time is not working in its favor, and that the treaties of surrender to the Zionists apply only to the ruling Arab regimes but not to the people who reject normalization with the Zionist enemy."

The Labor Party's delegate to the rally, the party's assistant secretary general 'Abd-al-Hamid Barakat, is quoted as saying that "the Arab-Israeli conflict is a conflict about existence and survival, not about borders, and that the religion of Egyptians, both Muslims and Christians, urges them to fight the Jews because they are "our greatest enemies until God reclaims the earth and all those on it."

Speaking for the Muslim Brothers on behalf of Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan who is in police custody on "fabricated" charges, Abu-al-'Ula Madi, assistant president of the Engineers Association, notes that the Egyptian public has resisted normalization since 1979 and that "the Arab-Israeli conflict will continue without surrender as long as there are enlightened political forces that mobilize the people against Zionism."

CHIEF EDITOR ON ANTINORMALIZATION, DEMOCRACY

The second report is the 1,200-word apparent text of a speech that AL-SHA'B's chief editor Majdi Husayn had planned to deliver at the rally but could not do so because of an engagement elsewhere.

Husayn praises the "splendid initiative" to form a national movement to resist normalization and "Zionist influence" and says it is a slap to the face of the "appeasers, despairers, and abandoners of rights who deafened us over the past few years with their continued talk about the need to accept the fait accompli.

He says the formation of the movement, which he terms a "committee," comes at a very propitious time as the Egyptian-Israeli crisis over nuclear weapons is escalating. He notes that it also comes in the wake of the "heroic martyrdom operation" in which 19 Israeli troops were killed near Tel Aviv.

Husayn remarks: "In Casablanca the Egyptian Government itself discovered that it was being excluded from the Middle East Market and so it leaned toward adopting more hardline attitudes towards Israel."

Noting that Egypt is facing "a real U.S.-backed Israeli threat," he calls for restoring priority status to the Arab-Israeli conflict; dismissing the idea that the October [1973] war was the last war to ever be fought; reviving paramilitary drills in the country's schools; holding further rallies in the provinces to "enlighten the people about "Zionist dangers to the country's future"; upgrading the antinormalization committee to a national front that includes political parties, professional associations, and public figures; assisting "Palestinian and Lebanese armed jihad against the Zionist entity"; and seeking a reconciliation with Iraq, Iran, and Sudan.

To "confront external dangers" he also calls for putting the Egyptian house in order through honest elections, noting that it is possible in this context to learn from the Israelis themselves who, by permitting their public a great level of participation in power, always succeed in promoting their "hostile interests."

FORMER ARMY CHIEF DISCUSSES ISRAEL'S STRATEGIC AIMS

The third report on page 4 is a 3,500-word apparent text of a speech delivered by Lieutenant General [Retired] Sa'd al-Din al-Shadhili, Armed Forces chief of staff during the October 1973 war and current dissident, to the same antinormalization rally.

Al-Shadhili argues that Israel's and "international Zionism's" ultimate aim is to establish a greater Israel that in the view of the least hardline "Jewish Zionists" would include all of Palestine, Jordan, southern Syria, and southern Lebanon including al-Litani River. He adds that in the opinion of the most hardline Israelis, the "Jewish state" should extend from the Nile in the west to the Euphrates in the east and from the Turkish border in the north to Medina in the south. He says that because the final objective is unattainable in one stage, Israel has been seeking to implement it in several, notably its 1979 peace treaty with Egypt, the subsequent agreement of

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"surrender" which Yasir 'Arafat signed in 1993, and the current normalization process.

Al-Shadhili asks: "Does Israel's quest to normalize its relations with the Arab countries under the guise of peace mean that it has abandoned its strategic aim of building a Jewish state from the Nile to the Euphrates as we have already noted?"

He answers: "No, no, and no. All that has happened has been a series of tactics congruent with Israel's strategic aim."

Drawing a comparison between Israel's and the Arab world's human and natural resources, he notes the great preponderance of Arab resources and says that Israel realizes that in the long run it stands to lose and this is why it is exploiting its current military and technological edge to "obtain the greatest possible gains as cheaply as possible."

Al-Shadhili says: "Israel and the great powers fear an Arab awakening. They oppose any movement toward a union of the Arab countries and encourage sedition and disputes so that the Arabs will fight each other. They are even provoking sedition among the sects within each Arab country. They know that the only way to control the Arab giant is to hypnotize him and suggest to him through their agents that his only chance to live and prosper is by normalizing his ties with Israel."

He remarks that "in strategic terms, the distant future will favor the Arabs on condition that the Arab people alter the conditions that have brought them to their present situation."

To achieve this he advocates real democracy and says that when the people make their own decisions, they will reject "Zionist hegemony," properly exploit their natural resources, and "unite their efforts against their enemies."

At the beginning of his speech, al-Shadhili cites verses 60, 61, and 62 of the Koranic Sura [Chapter] of al-Anfal: "Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies, and others besides, whom ye may not know, but whom God doth know. Whatever ye shall spend in the cause of God shall be repaid unto you, and ye shall not be treated unjustly."

"But if the enemy incline toward peace, do thou also incline toward peace and trust in God: for He is the One that heareth and knoweth all things."

"Should they intend to deceive thee, verily God sufficeth thee: He it is that hath strengthened thee with His aid and with the company of the believers."

Al-Shadhili notes that these verses complement one another and those who focus on the middle one, ignoring the first and the third, are "misguided and misguiding."

He asks: "Does Israel really want peace or is it deceiving us with a false peace? Are the Arab leaders and writers who advocate normalization with Israel convinced that it will serve Arab interests? What guarantees are there that Israel will not use the normalization period to complete its domination of the Arab region and to abort the Islamic awakening that has started to appear in all parts of the Islamic nation?"

RECENT VIOLENCE IN AL-MINYA GOVERNORATE REVIEWED

A 1,200-word report by Ahmad Mahjub on page 2, under the heading "Relative Calm in Mallawi... and Expanding Violence in al-Minya" reviews recent attacks by the Islamic Group in al-Minya Governorate and clashes between its members and the security forces. The writer says that although Mallawi District has been calm in the "past few days," there was a lot of violence in the governorate's northern districts including al-'Idwah, Matay, Bani Mazar, and Samalut. He adds that on the whole the security forces' declaration that violence is ebbing, though "largely accurate," does not mean that the violence has stopped. He then provides a list of recent clashes and attacks, many in January, that prove that "there are a lot of bases from which the Islamic Group's operations proceed."

The writer speaks of "numerous assassinations by both sides and extensive retaliation by the security forces against the Islamic Group's members who in their turn retaliated against police personnel and informers."

The report accuses the security forces of shooting citizens who do not belong even to any organization, of trying to provoke disputes between the families of people killed by the police and the Islamic Group, and of demolishing with bulldozers the houses of Islamic Group members. It also refers to "extensive retaliatory operations" by the Islamic Group.

Next to the report is a two-column photo of a security forces member carrying a rifle, with the following caption: "When will dialogue replace weapons in order to end the hellish circle of violence?"

INTERVIEW WITH ALIJA IZETBEGOVIC

The paper publishes a 3,000-word interview with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic on page 2 that was conducted by several intellectuals during the Bosnian president's recent visit to Egypt. Izetbegovic's remarks deal with his personal history as a writer, lawyer, and dissident under communist rule and the history of the recent conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Asked about the concept of national and religious identity in the Balkans, Izetbegovic notes that his people recognize themselves now as Muslim in religion and Bosnian in nationality and that this is their motivation as they seek to establish a tolerant and peaceful Muslim community in Europe. He notes that his immediate task, however, is his people's survival.

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Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Commerce Secretary Visits, Meets Leaders

Quray' Discusses Talks

JN0702075295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Feb

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Quray', minister of economy and trade, said that His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat will receive Ronald Brown, U.S. secretary of commerce, in Gaza tomorrow [7 February]. This came following a meeting between Quray' and Brown in Ramallah today. More details in the following report from Ahmad Zaki:

[Begin recording] [Zaki] The economic meeting between Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', minister of economy and trade in the National Authority, and Ronald Brown, secretary of commerce, was concluded in the al-Barduni Restaurant in the city of Ramallah.

The meeting focused on the Palestinian trade and economic conditions and ways to launch cooperation with U.S. businessmen. At the beginning of the meeting, Quray' welcomed the attendees and the U.S. secretary. Quray' said: We are suffering problems, chief of which is the closure of borders with the Palestinian territories and settlement expansion. We hope that assistance will be extended to us in order to create economic conditions that will help develop the peace process. We hope that the U.S. delegation will promote peace in the region.

Quray' called for further U.S. support for the Palestinians.

For his part, Ronald Brown, U.S. secretary of commerce, said: I was here one year ago. I became familiar with the expectations of citizens. I now realize that there is disappointment because citizens expected an immediate change in their lives following the peace process.

The U.S. secretary stressed the need to improve the conditions of people by promoting the private sector.

The meeting was attended by members of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, PECDAR, and thirty Palestinian businessmen.

Ronald Brown is scheduled to meet with His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat to discuss various issues of concern to Palestinians. An economic meeting will be held in the Egyptian city of Taba on Wednesday among ministers of trade in Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, Israel, and the United States.

We held the following interview with Ahmad Quray':

[Unidentified correspondent] Ahmad Quray', what are the results of your meeting today?

[Quray'] I believe that this meeting was positive and preparatory to the meeting that will be held tomorrow between the U.S. secretary and President Yasir 'Arafat. We reviewed bilateral relations on the economic and trade levels and the support the United States can extend to Palestinian trade through building Palestinian or joint industrial zones and extending loan guarantees and facilities for Palestinian projects.

[Correspondent] How can cooperation between the United States and the Palestinian Authority continue at a time when Israel is closing the Palestinian territories?

[Quray'] We discussed the closure and its destructive impact on the Palestinian economy. There was an understanding on the part of the U.S. secretary of the dangers of the closure.

[Correspondent] Did you deal with the assistance from donor nations?

[Quray'] Certainly, we did. The United States is doing its best to guarantee the continued flow of this assistance.

[Correspondent] Will the U.S. secretary convey any message to President Bill Clinton on the economic conditions?

[Quray'] He will hold intensive talks with 'Arafat tomorrow.

[Correspondent] Is this meeting between you and Brown considered introductory to the meeting in Taba?

[Quray'] No. This meeting was planned before the Taba meeting, which was planned only a few days ago. This meeting was scheduled more than a month ago when the U.S. secretary was planning to visit the region.

[Correspondent] What is the U.S. secretary's impression of the Palestinian [word indistinct]?

[Quray'] He believes that it needs help and support. He also appreciates that the conditions are difficult.

[Correspondent] Are there any U.S. pledges to extend aid to Palestinians?

[Quray'] Actually, they are extending aid. These are not pledges. They are extending aid. The question is whether this aid is sufficient.

[Correspondent] Thank you Ahmad Quray'.

[Quray'] You are welcome. [end recording]

'Arafat, Brown Meet in Gaza

JN0702092195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat met a short while ago with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown at the president's office in Gaza.

Mr. Brown had earlier met with Economy and Trade Minister Ahmad Quray' in Ramallah. Press sources said today that during his visit to Gaza, Brown will announce

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the inauguration of the first joint U.S.-Palestinian trade venture that is backed by a U.S. peace group headquartered in the United States.

'Urayqat Pins Hopes on Next 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting

JN0402074195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the National Authority, has said the current situation will change when the Palestinians feel they have won their freedom. Minister 'Urayqat added that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin cannot simply blame the Palestinians; he must realize that he cannot build settlements and stifle the Palestinians by closing the Palestinian territories and at the same time have peace.

'Urayqat said there will be no Palestinian legislative elections before the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the populated areas in accordance with the agreements signed with the PLO. He expected the next meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Rabin to yield positive results.

Negotiator Previews 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting

NC0602145895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—Hasan 'Usfur, official in charge of elections in the Palestinian Authority [PA], has said that the summit meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Thursday [9 February] will clear the road for a ministerial-level meeting between Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the PA, and General Moshe Shahal, the Israeli police minister, to discuss the release of 6,000 Palestinian prisoners, including 30 women.

He told MENA today that Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, which will resume tomorrow, Tuesday, in Cairo, will essentially discuss the holding of Palestinian legislative elections in the self-rule areas.

He said the Palestinian side will present a working paper on the division of constituencies and the number of people to be elected to council.

The Palestinian official denied that an agreement was reached during the four-way summit in Cairo to hold another summit in Amman before the end of this month. He explained that the summit agreed on holding a four-way ministerial meeting in Amman to discuss the issue of displaced Palestinians.

Meanwhile, Israeli diplomatic sources in Cairo have said that Ya'el Zenjar, legal adviser to the Israeli Foreign Ministry [name and title as received], will lead the Israeli delegation to tomorrow's negotiations as a replacement for Gadi Zohar, official in charge of the Civil Administration in the West Bank, who has resigned from the delegation's chairmanship.

'Terrorist' Organizations Claim Attack on Israeli Guard

TA0602153895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Two terrorist organizations have claimed responsibility for this morning's attack near the Nahal 'Oz roadblock inside the Gaza Strip. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] announced on Gaza Strip mosque loudspeakers that members of an 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad had carried out the attack, and an unidentified man telephoned news agencies in Jerusalem and announced that members of the Red Star, the military arm of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, had killed the Israeli guard and seriously wounded his colleague. [passage omitted]

Hamas Denies Role in Tanker Attack; 'Arafat Vows Punishment

TA0602163895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 6 Feb 95

[Report by Alan Ben-'Ami]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] Three claims of responsibility for this morning's attack were issued by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. But Hamas has since denied any responsibility for the attack, which happened inside the Palestinian autonomous area, bringing public condemnation from Yasir 'Arafat and Palestinian officials. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian police conducted searches of the area of the attack and detained nine Palestinian eyewitnesses. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was reportedly furious. Speaking in Gaza, 'Arafat said such acts would not pass without punishment, but he asked: Who is the genius who wants to close off the Gaza Strip and deprive its residents of basic products? 'Arafat said the aim of the attack was to prevent Israel's lifting of the closure and embarrass the Palestinian Authority before his scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Rabin on Thursday.

Sources in Gaza say Palestinian police have arrested three leaders of the Islamic Jihad organization, which claimed responsibility for last month's terrorist attack in Bet Lid. Among those arrested was Shaykh Nafis 'Azzam, a leader of the group in Rafah.

'Arafat Derides 'Genius' Behind Attack on Tanker

TA0602155295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat says this morning's attack on a fuel tanker may cause economic harm to the

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Gaza Strip residents. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that 'Arafat, speaking at a rally in Gaza, asked: Who is the genius who set out to close off the Strip and deprive its residents of basic staples? Who is the man organizing these conspiracies against Palestinian children, hospitals, and the Gaza Strip industry?

General 'Abd-al-Raziq al-Majayidah, a senior Palestinian police commander, said the Palestinian police will take steps to prevent the recurrence of such attacks.

Gen. al-Majayidah further said that the current method of fuel supply distribution is unsatisfactory. He believes that all Israeli tankers should transport fuel to Nahal 'Oz, where it would be distributed, and that the tankers should not enter the Strip.

'Arafat on Tanker Attack, Israeli Withholding of Funds

JN0602203395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat opened a workshop on human development at noon today. He delivered a speech in which he strongly lashed out at the attack on a fuel tanker on its way to the Gaza Strip at the Nahal 'Oz roadblock. He said this action is condemned as they want to completely close the Strip. He stressed that we have signed the peace of the brave and not the peace of the siege.

The details are in the following report by colleague 'Arif Salim: At the opening of a workshop on uninterrupted human development, President Yasir 'Arafat said that a serious conspiracy against our people is being uncovered. In his speech at the workshop, which was organized by the United Nations Development Program [UNDP], President 'Arafat accused Israel of trying to strangle us with all available means. He said that Israel withholds the funds that we should receive from the value added tax. He said that the Gaza Strip imports $800 million of goods every year. Therefore, we should get $136 million. But, we have received only $26 million shekels in the past few months.

'Arafat said: I cannot understand why they withhold these funds. They do so for only reason. They want to strangle us. 'Arafat also said: Is this the peace we sought? Is this the peace of the brave? He explained: We signed the peace of the brave and not the peace of the siege.

'Arafat urged the UN organizations and all our friends to help us force the Israeli Government to release our funds.

At the workshop, which he opened in the presence of Furayh Abu- Middayn, the justice minister, and Dr. Anis al-Qaq, the assistant under secretary at the Planning Ministry and head of the workshop, President 'Arafat spoke about the delay in receiving the assistance the World Bank has promised. He criticized the World Bank for the slogans it used to issue about the transparency and consistency in receiving assistance. He said: All the promises and pledges that were announced produced no results. His excellency the president recalled an important statement the World Bank vice president made at a meeting of donor countries in Luxembourg in 1993 where he said: We promised President 'Arafat to give the Palestinian people $720 million at the beginning of 1994. His excellency the president said that the amount came down to $400 million, then to $240 million, then to $125 million. But, in the end, and up until now, only $34 million have been received. He called on the UNDP and the other UN bodies to help us to rebuild our infrastructure, which the occupation has destroyed. He said: We drink polluted water, the electricity grid is inefficient, and the schools operate in three daily shifts with more than 65 pupils in each class.

Ranking Police Officer on 'Regrettable' Gaza Attack

JN0702091095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Feb 95

[Interview with Major General 'Abd-al-Raziq al-Majayidah, "a ranking Palestinian police officer," by an unidentified correspondent, in Gaza on 6 February; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Majayidah] A fuel tanker was approaching from Nahal 'Oz toward the Gaza Station near Jabaliya. An unknown gunman intercepted it. Two Israeli escorts of the tanker were injured. Unfortunately, one of them was killed. Of course, this is a regrettable and annoying attack. There was a mistake; the tanker should not have come here, the fuel distribution center should be in Nahal 'Oz.

[Correspondent] What measures have you taken following the incident?

[Al-Majayidah] We are searching and trying to chase the culprits.

[Correspondent] Are you searching the incident area?

[Al-Majayidah] The incident area and elsewhere.

[Correspondent] What measures will be taken in the future, in light of this incident, to stave off similar attacks?

[Al-Majayidah] We usually take measures in the wake of similar incidents to prevent their recurrence.

[Correspondent] According to the agreement, are Israeli vehicles allowed to pass along this road?

[Al-Majayidah] Yes they are, although it is wrong that these vehicles should use this road.

[Correspondent] Why do you think the Palestinian security forces that were escorting the tanker did not act against the perpetrators?

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[Al-Majayidah] I still do not know what happened with the preventive security men that were with them. Indeed. I am not aware of this. However, we are investigating the incident on the ground.

Quray' Discusses Cairo Summit, Elections

NC0702071495 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 7 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', minister of economy, trade, and finance in the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] This is the ninth round of talks between you and the Israelis to discuss elections. How do you assess the Israeli position on the Palestinian elections?

[Quray'] The elections form one of the elements of the interim agreement for the transitional period. It is the main topic being discussed right now and represents the major obstacle on which no agreement has been reached. The Israeli troops must first redeploy outside the inhabited area and outside the Palestinian jurisdiction according to the Declaration of Principles. Then elections can be held and powers can be transferred to the Palestinian Authority throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Elections are undoubtedly important. They will take the entire Palestinian community to a democratic life. If agreement is to be reached on elections, there must be an agreement on redeployment first so that elections can be held in an atmosphere free of occupation. We hope this round will succeed and make progress so that the remaining provisions of the transitional agreement can be implemented.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Israel reportedly plans to halt the embargo on Gaza and the West Bank on 22 February. What is the truth in this? What are you doing to stop the suffering of the Palestinian people?

[Quray'] The Israeli measure of closing the occupied Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Gaza represents a mass punishment involving all the Palestinian people. It is no longer acceptable and obviously violates the Declaration of Principles, even the economic agreement. How can we sign an economic agreement that talks of freedom of trade, commodities, and individuals when every kind of obstacle is being placed before the movement of commodities, individuals, and vehicles? It is a process of destroying the economy. Another point is the Palestinian workers. The crime Israel committed in the past 27 years was to destroy the infrastructure and freeze the activity of the Palestinian private sector. Under these circumstances, Palestinian workers were compelled to work in the Israeli economy. These workers now work for two weeks or a month and then stay idle for a month or more. This does not create a favorable atmosphere and certainly does not help implement the agreement. We hope reports about ending this embargo and the closure of the occupied territories are true. We hope the closure will not recur, because that would only spread more frustration and aggravate the Palestinians.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] There are conflicting reports about the outcome of the quadripartite summit in Cairo. As Palestinians, how do you view the outcome of that summit? Did the summit discuss what you really wanted to discuss?

[Quray'] Let me say that the summit meeting as such was a major event. Our expectations were much higher than what we actually got. If we achieved anything it was that a meeting will be held on Thursday [9 February] between the Israeli prime minister and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to discuss bilateral issues. The summit was historic for the region. We hoped it would address the major issues that concern individual parties. For instance, terrorism and violence were addressed at length. This is an Israeli concern. True, the issue concerns everyone, but it is mainly an Israeli concern. The issue was addressed.

The Palestinians were very interested in obtaining an Israeli commitment to redeploy troops. Unfortunately we did not succeed in that. More important than violence, or rather the fiercest kinds of terrorism, is the settlement process. Unless the Israeli Government declares a halt to settlement activity, the Palestinians will remain frustrated. We tried our best to phrase a provision on that, but unfortunately we did not succeed.

Aide Says 'Arafat Explained Serious Situation at Summit

JN0402102195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has made the following statement to the Palestinian News Agency on the quadrilateral summit: President Yasir 'Arafat explained at the summit the Palestinian view and the seriousness of the present situation in light of the Israeli measures that almost halted the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Under the present situation, Israel has not started redeployment, stalled elections, pursued an active settlement policy, and imposed isolation and collective punishment on the Palestinian people, he said.

The conferees decided to urge immediate negotiations on these issues and to start implementing the arrangements that were agreed upon, especially beginning the activities of the ministerial committee on the prisoners and detainees.

PA Officials Reportedly Ridicule Netanyahu Plan

TA0602155695 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 6 Feb 95 p 3

[Report by Rami Shani]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu's plan was received with ridicule by members of the Palestinian Authority [PA].

Sources in the Gaza Strip said that Furayh Abu-Middayn, the official in charge of justice in the PA, said "he has gone mad" to describe how he views Netanyahu after publication of the plan for a new Palestinian autonomy authority.

"It is a whimsical plan. If he wants separation, he should say so," Abu-Middayn said. "Even his colleagues in the Likud did not accept it, but it shows that if Netanyahu comes to power, he does not plan to uphold signed agreements."

Hamas Promises Aid to Families of Suicide Attackers

TA0702062395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip has promised to take care of the families of suicide attackers. Each family will receive 1,000 dinars and Hamas will supply their every need. This came out during the interrogation of a Palestinian youth who was arrested by the Palestinian security forces before carrying out a suicide attack.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif al-Hajj, a spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in the Gaza Strip, said that the armed struggle against Israeli targets would continue. Al-Hajj said that the DFLP would fight against the Oslo agreement in every possible way.

Hamas Official in Jordan Calls 'Arafat 'Israel's Agent'

AU0602142995 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 6 Feb 95 p 5

[Report by Peter Gerner: " 'No Break For Israelis and 'Arafat'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Despite making peace with Israel, King Husayn of Jordan has not done anything so far to fight extremist Islamic groups, such as the radical Palestinian Hamas, which has its own bureau in Amman. Although the special summit held in Cairo last week rejected all violence, this will not make any difference to Hamas' presence in Amman.

This is the view that Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas spokesman in Jordan, expressed in an interview with DIE PRESSE. According to Ghawshah, there is no reason for Husayn and his security forces to take action against the Hamas branch in Amman, "because we are only undertaking political and media activities here, but no military action."

Ghawshah is a delicate man in his early sixties with closely cropped gray beard, kind eyes, a clear, calm voice, and the appearance of an understanding clergyman. When he listens, he leans over to the person he is talking to, as if he was hearing confession. But what he himself has to say, the trained construction engineer does not surround with an aura of whispered secrecy. Only two weeks after the Netanya attack, in which 21 Israeli soldiers were killed on 22 January, he stated quite clearly: "No break for the Israelis. And none for 'Arafat either."

In the prescribed language of Islamic extremism, those who die as live bombs in the name of Allah, taking dozens of innocent people with them, are not "terrorists" or "fanatics," but "martyrs, who according to our religion, go straight to paradise." And on the political justification of these attacks: "They offered legitimate resistance to the occupiers." All the more so, as those killed in Netanya were soldiers on their way to the occupied West Bank.

Unlike the anti-'Arafat groups of the Palestinian left, such as the "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine" of Dr. George Habash, or nationalists like the Fatah dissidents around Abu Musa, Hamas is not prepared to live in a secular state together with the Jews. They demand "all of Palestine," that is, the territory within the borders of the former British mandate; the Israelis should return to their original countries or those of their ancestors.

In a "Muslim democracy," which Hamas will "certainly" have one day, according to Ghawshah, there is no room for the "Jewish usurpers."

The Hamas activist derives his optimism from the geopolitical situation and from his confidence in the dynamics of political Islam: "If Rabin is incapable of coming to terms with small Palestinian groups such as Hamas or Jihad, what will he do if Islam takes over in Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, or Morocco? Or in Turkey, after having established itself in Iran already?"

Even if the Israelis order 'Arafat to carry out "punitive action" against Hamas and other groups, such as Jihad, which is responsible for Netanya: "We won't be deterred by that." Apart from that, the PLO chief no longer has much influence in Gaza and has lost much of his support in the West Bank. "He has become Israel's agent." Although a "civil war" between groups loyal to 'Arafat and those opposed to him would be "a tragedy for us Palestinians," in view of developments and "for the sake of the cause, it cannot be ruled out."

Hamas Leader Denies Agreement With PA To Stop 'Terrorism'

TA0702121795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the leaders of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip, denied that his movement had reached an agreement with the Palestinian Authority [PA] not to

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carry out attacks within the autonomous areas. Al-Zahhar told our correspondent Dani Zaqen that he condemned the PA's arrest of activists from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and claimed they were not involved in terrorist activities.

Habash on Armed Struggle, Post-Peace Activity

NC0502115095 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 25 Jan 95 p 11

[Interview with Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine by Kamal Ibrahim; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ibrahim] Let us suppose that the negotiations between Syria and Israel and Lebanon and Israel end in peace treaties. How will the Palestinian organizations continue their political and organizational activities?

[Habash] Why should we assume in advance that the signing of peace treaties between Syria and Israel and between Lebanon and Israel will automatically mean that Syria will move to a state of confrontation with the Palestinian people's struggle to achieve their legitimate national and pan-Arab rights? I know that the brothers in Syria realize the extent of the damage and injustice the Oslo Accord and subsequent agreements caused to the Palestine question. This automatically means that those agreements will not stop the struggle of the Palestinian people and their nationalist forces. That is one thing. Another thing is that the Palestinian organizations are active not only in the Syrian and Lebanese arenas, but wherever the Palestinian people exist. Consequently, our struggle and resistance against hostile schemes is not confined to certain arenas or positions. We also must note that the center of Palestinian national struggle has actually moved to the occupied homeland, with whatever developments this may entail. The basic and primary field of confrontation against the Zionist liquidation scheme will be the occupied homeland, without underestimating, by any means, the role and status of other fields.

Add to this the fact that we are always capable of adjusting the forms and patterns of our work to suit the situation and changes, but without affecting the essence and principles of our position. Necessarily, the shape, appearance, and mechanisms of our work on the Lebanese stage will be radically different from those seen during the stage of public activity. But as much as we see future complications to our activity, we believe this should not be discussed against the backdrop of its contradiction with our rights and determination to continue our struggle, but against the backdrop of a need to show the necessary flexibility to adapt the methods and forms of our work to ensure the continuation and constant development of our struggle.

[Ibrahim] What will happen to armed struggle if such treaties are signed, knowing that these treaties involve security agreements?

[Habash] Treaties and security agreements will undoubtedly place many restrictions and add major obstacles to the continuation of armed struggle against occupation. But that is one thing and the question about the destiny of this struggle is another thing. As we understand it, armed struggle is a natural reaction to occupation. As long as the agreements that have been signed and that will be signed, in all their political and security aspects, keep the contradictions essentially unresolved, that is, maintain the occupation and deprive our people of their national rights, and as long as occupation remains in our land and practices terrorism against our people, either directly or through Palestinian or Arab agents, the armed struggle will continue and will constantly develop, whether the signatories like it or not. Here are the valiant resistance men dealing blows in the heart of Tel Aviv. What can the occupation do? It will definitely practice more oppression and terrorism, and this means the cycle of struggle will not stop. Our right to use all forms of struggle is a sacred and legitimate right until the end. The difficulties we are now experiencing do not negate this right or affect its importance or legitimacy, but prompt us to search for our weaknesses to overcome them and deal painful blows to the occupation all the time. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Figure Discusses Quadripartite Summit

NC0502062795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awdah, "one of the most prominent figures of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement" by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz, perhaps you remember [former Israeli Defense Minister] Moshe Dayan's remark on the day of the triumph of the blessed Islamic revolution in Iran. He said: An earthquake has occurred in Iran, the reverberations of which we will feel here. In your opinion, what influence has the Islamic revolution had on the Palestinian people's Islamic revival against the Zionist enemy?

['Awdah] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praised be God. May the prayers of God be upon His prophet, the prophet's kin and companions, and those who follow in his footsteps until the Day of Judgement. The triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran—a country that had formerly been a comfortable pastureland for the West, particularly the United States—was an earthquake that shook the pillars of heathenism and arrogance everywhere. In my opinion, the Muslims were like orphans at a banquet of scoundrels before the triumph of the Islamic revolution. The revolution revived the hopes of Muslims everywhere that they could achieve victory and confront the idol

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dominating the world. One of the most important repercussions of the victorious Iranian Islamic revolution was the birth of a current of Islamic jihad in the blessed land of Palestine.

[Correspondent] Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Cairo quadripartite summit was doubtlessly an attempt to extricate the so-called peace process from its predicament. What do you have to say about the results of this summit? What will the Oslo Agreement's fate be, in light of this development?

['Awdah] My dear brother, we view this thing that they term a peace as stillborn because it is the peace of humiliation which the Koran mentions and forbids. Almighty God says: Be not weary and faint-hearted, crying for peace when ye should be uppermost. [Koranic verse] This peace is actually designed to make the nation—despite its resources, capabilities, culture, and civilization—surrender to a handful of foreigners who were planted in the heart of our nation. I believe that no quadripartite or even a forty-way summit can divert the nation from its course. What they call peace is a shaky contract between the Israeli enemy and individuals who, to tell the truth, were not chosen by the people. The Islamic people were not asked for their opinion about this peace. We believe that whatever efforts they make, only the right thing will be done, as God, may He be praised and exalted, promised. God says: God has willed to justify the truth according to His words, and to cut off the roots of the unbelievers. [Koranic verse]

[Correspondent] Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz, can the summit be described as an attempt to forge an alliance between the enemy, Egypt, 'Arafat, and Jordan to confront the Palestinian people's revival that now threatens the Zionist schemes?

['Awdah] If we examine the circumstances in which this summit was held and also the statements coming out of it, we can see that it is actually moving in such a direction. They particularly want to back Islamic action and the Islamic jihad current into a corner. However, we tell ourselves and tell all the people: As for them, they are but plotting a scheme, and I am planning a scheme. Therefore grant a delay to the unbelievers; give respite to them for a while. [Koranic verses]

[Correspondent] Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz, according to reports, the Palestinian people are continuing to arrest Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad members. How true are these reports?

['Awdah] Concerning conditions inside the territories, we are always advising our people and all our brothers to try ever harder to unite ranks and bridge any gap through which Satan could pass to cause disagreement and infighting. We constantly urge greater unity and solidarity. We exhort our brothers in the Palestinian police force not to aid any hostile party against our mujahidin brothers. We also know that most of the brothers in the police force are honorable people who are very understanding. We appreciate their circumstances.

[Correspondent] Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awdah, thank you.

['Awdah] May God's greetings be with you.

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Algeria

Reaction to Mitterrand Proposal for Conference

FIS' Haddam Gives Qualified Support

MM0602143895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Feb 95 p 4

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq: "Haddam Announces His Qualified Support for Mitterrand's Call"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Anouar Haddam, head of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Parliamentary Mission abroad, stressed yesterday the Front's strong rejection of the internationalization of the Algerian issue.

He reiterated his support for French President Francois Mitterrand's call for a conference on Algeria to be held in Europe, provided it proceeds from the document endorsed by the Rome-2 seminar held by Algerian opposition parties.

For his part, Shaykh Mahfoud Nahna, leader of the Algerian Islamic Society Movement (HAMAS), described Mitterrand's call as an encroachment on Algerian national authority, warning that it could cause the infighting in Algeria to escalate.

In Washington, Haddam said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We and the opposition parties have decided not to internationalize the issue. We strongly reject any foreign interference in the issue at the expense of the Algerian people. He added that the regime in Algeria—through what it is doing and through its various means—is the one seeking and working to internationalize the issue.

On the motives behind President Mitterrand's proposal, Haddam said: "We welcome it, but with strong reservations." This proposal is the outcome of world public opinion's further knowledge of the tragic situation the Algerian people are experiencing and the increasing international pressures on the regime.

He said: The international community has begun to realize what is happening in Algeria as a result of the Algerian regime's repression. The international community has begun to realize that in order to achieve stability in the region, it should deal with those whom the people have chosen, including the FIS. This is what the document of the Rome-2 seminar stipulated. [passage omitted]

War Veterans Group Denounces Proposal

LD0602201895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following statements by French President Francois Mitterrand, in which he proposed holding a European conference to deal with the Algerian crisis in hopes of helping Algeria at this stage, the national secretariat of the Mojahedin Organization [War Veterans] issued a statement in which it resented and denounced Mitterrand's statement, even if it was merely a hope from the first official in France. He is the official known to Algeria during its ordeal and struggle to wipe out colonialism, when Mitterrand was then an interior minister who spoke the language of force and denied the Algerian people their right to freedom and self-determination.

Thus, the national secretariat of the Mojahedin Organization added that Algeria was in no need for such lessons and advice from a character known to the Algerian people.

In addition, the Mojahedin Organization considered the French president's statement at this time a flagrant intervention in Algeria's internal affairs and an exposed maneuver aimed at indirectly supporting acts of terrorism, particularly after the second Sant 'Egidio meeting in Rome, with the aim of internationalizing the events and taking them out of their national framework.

The Mojahedin Organization called on all active forces in the country to continue the responsible dialogue, without exclusion, and resort to reason and the higher interest of the Algerian people.

Fon his part, Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of Harakat al- Mujtama' al-Islami [Hamas], made a statement, a written copy of which was received by the radio. The leader of Harakat al-Mujtama' al-Islami said that the French president's recent statement on holding a seminar to discuss the Algerian crisis, irrespective of his motives, was a matter that would affect negatively the good neighborly relations between Algeria and the countries invited for this proposed seminar, from which official and partisan sides concerned with solving the Algerian crisis would definitely be absent. Perhaps Mitterrand's statement was a desire to give vent to the disappointment that befell the socialists in many parts of the world, or to mine the political life for whoever succeeded him, or to a lack of understanding the lesson that the faithful November men had taught France, or to consecrate the idea of the paternal mandate over the Algerian people in the mind of the candidate of the forthcoming French elections, Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah said.

Harakat al-Mujtama' al-Islami stressed that it received this official French proposal with great resentment, the cause of which was the political situation characterized by the floundering of the national dialogue.

FLN Committee Calls For 'Urgent' Meeting

LD0602213695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In political life, the provisional committee in charge of preparing for the extraordinary congress of the National Liberation Front [FLN] has

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today demanded an urgent meeting with the FLN Central Committee because of the political losses caused by this executive body, and their criminal effects on the national arena.

In a statement received by APS, the provisional committee also calls for the extraordinary congress to be convened as soon as possible in order to avoid a collective suicide and a national disaster. It considers the repugnant Amiroauche Street massacre as an objective and natural outcome of the Sant 'Egidio document, and a natural extension to the political recommendation of those who signed it.

More on Call for Meeting

LD0702093495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to the statement [by the provisional committee in charge of preparing the National Liberation Front's extraordinary congress], the provisional committee warned the [FLN] Central Committee of the leadership's suicidal and destructive policy which is incompatible with the values of November 1954 and with the nation's higher interests. The party's struggling rank-and-file sees the leadership as usurpers and illegal, a leadership which never reflected the party's aspirations and demands.

FIS' Kebir on Missing Shaykhs, Demand for Western Pressure

MM0602142495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Feb 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "Reports of Disappearance of Madani and Belhadj in Mysterious Circumstances"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris—Rabah Kebir, chairman of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Executive Committee abroad, has said that new developments have occurred vis-a-vis the residence of Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. In an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday he said that "last Wednesday Ali Belhadj telephoned some brothers in Algeria, informing them that the authorities had taken Shaykhs Madani and Belhadj to another place on the pretext of treating them. Then the telephone line in their residence in Djinan El Mufti was cut off, and the authorities refused to allow Shaykh Ali Belhadj's family to visit him. They were told to return after two days. Since then we have received no information about the two shaykhs' whereabouts or conditions." Kebir added that contacts had not been interrupted between the authorities' envoys and the two shaykhs. These contacts had seen no tension that would justify the mysterious circumstances of their disappearance. However, as is known, there are contradicting, sometimes conflicting, wings within the authorities—which leaves the door open to all probabilities." [passage omitted]

Asked whether he agrees with Hocine Ait Ahmed [leader of the Socialist Forces Front] as regards the demand for setting political conditions for Western economic aid to Algeria and whether that would mean that the Algerian people would pay the price, he told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "It is logical for economic aid to be linked with the initiation of serious negotiations with the opposition—which is bound to genuinely push toward a political solution. But it is wrong to say that the people would pay the price, since the aid does in present conditions go to the people. Therefore, we believe it is necessary to link the aid with a political solution in order to ensure that this aid will go to the Algerian people to achieve prosperity and progress for them. Besides, a political solution that leads to halting the bloody conflict in Algeria is more important than a piece of bread stained with blood."

Rabah Kebir denied the existence of any contradiction between the rejection of internationalization and the demand that Western states exert pressure on the regime to agree to dialogue with the opposition. He said: "We believe that the international community's role is limited to helping the Algerians to secure suitable conditions for serious negotiation among them. That is, the solution should remain Algerian."

Kebir also denied that Western capitals, in particular Paris, have made contacts with the FIS over President Mitterrand's initiative. He said: "No contacts have been made over this initiative yet. Apart from this, contacts are continuing. Contacts between us and the various Western capitals have not been interrupted."

Asked about his expectations as regards the situation in Algeria if the regime continues to reject the Rome agreement, he said: "We insist on a negotiated solution. If the regime continues to reject a peaceful solution among the Algerians, it will be the only one responsible for the results." [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Militants' Throw Homemade Bombs at Police Post

NC0702063095 Paris AFP in English 2308 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Minya, Egypt, Feb 6 (AFP)—Moslem militants hurled two homemade bombs at a police post in southern Egypt Monday [6 February], injuring several policemen, the security services said.

One of the bombs exploded and the other was defused by police, the services said without specifying the number of injured in the incident in the town of 'Atif Haydar in al-Minya district. The four assailants fled after an exchange of gunfire with police.

One police official said the attack was in apparent reprisal for recent police raids on the town of Al-'Adwa in which some 50 suspected Moslem militants were arrested.

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In another development, the interior ministry said it had ordered a reshuffle of the police force in the town of Mallawi also in the al-Minya region of southern Egypt following a shooting incident Saturday in which one policeman was killed and six others were wounded.

Meanwhile President Husni Mubarak Monday referred 50 Moslem militants for trial by military courts, police said.

The militants belong to Tala'i' al-Fath (Vanguard of the Conquest), an armed group largely dismantled by police over the past year. One of them, Yasir Tawfiq 'Ali, is still on the run.

The interior ministry announced the arrest of 42 members of the group in late December. Seven others were arrested earlier.

Large stocks of weapons and ammunition, leaflets hostile to the government and plans for attacking a police base were found in the hideouts of the 42 militants, the ministry said.

Musa Makes Statement at Start of World Tour

NC0702091595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0823 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo for Tokyo this morning on the first leg of a tour that will take him to the United States, Germany, France, and Italy.

In a predeparture statement, Musa said his visit to Tokyo is aimed at preparing for President Mubarak's visit to Japan. He said the framework of Egyptian-Japanese relations should not be based on economic aspects only. It should also involve economic cooperation in the fields of investment; trade; scientific, technological, and cultural cooperation; and political coordination, Musa added. [passage omitted]

As for his U.S. visit, the foreign minister said he will hold consultations with the U.S. Administration and Congress. The consultations will deal with bilateral relations and the peace process. He noted that the convening of a four or five-way ministerial meeting during the visit will discuss the essence of the Palestinian-israeli track and how to advance it, something that was the objective of the Cairo four-way summit.

Touching on his visit to Germany, the foreign minister said his talks with his German counterpart will deal with topics of mutual interest. He said the dimensions of Egyptian-European-Mediterranean relations will also be discussed. Musa said he will convey a message from President Mubarak to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. He said he will brief Kohl on developments in the Middle East.

On his visit to France, the foreign minister said he will participate in a peace seminar, which will deal with developments in the peace process in the region. The French prime minister and some of the sides to the peace process, including Egypt, will address the seminar, Musa added.

Concluding, Musa said he will visit Rome for several hours, when he will hold talks with the new Italian foreign minister. He said the talks will touch on the means to promote bilateral relations.

Economy Minister on Upcoming Taba Economic Talks

NC0602175095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—The trade and economy ministers of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Palestine, and the United States will meet in Taba the day after tomorrow [8 February] to discuss boosting economic and trade ties between these countries.

Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, minister of economy and foreign trade, stated that he will hold tomorrow [as received] a series of bilateral meetings with the ministers who will attend the meeting in order to review bilateral ties between Egypt and these countries. He said that the Taba meeting will deal with a number of issues, including discussion of the measures for encouraging trade between these countries, improvement in the trade and investment climate in the region, the governments' efforts to encourage investments, the exchange of information between these countries on promoting trade and investment, and the measures for facilitating trade legislation.

He added that the agenda also includes the means of developing economic and trade relations in light of the start of the implementation of the GATT treaty at the beginning of this year.

The economy minister went on to say that the ministers will also follow up the Casablanca economic summit's resolutions and the preparations for the economic summit slated to be held in the Jordanian capital Amman before the end of the year. He stressed the importance of exchanging views during this meeting.

Minister Mahmud will meet with U.S. Trade Secretary Ronald Brown to discuss economic cooperation between Egypt and the United States and the encouragement of investments in the West Bank and Gaza.

Brown, who will be accompanied by the 10 representatives of the largest U.S. companies during his visit to Egypt, will hold a news conference on Wednesday to talk about his Middle East tour.

Four-Way Summit Viewed as 'Front Against Syria'

NC0702084495 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Feb 95 p 1

[Editorial: "The Summit of Capitulation and Relinquishment"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The rulers committed another folly involving Egypt and its people yesterday when they called a quadripartite summit attended by terrorist Yitzhaq Rabin, who arrived a few hours after the descendant of terrorism, Shim'on Peres, left Egyptian territory.

Rabin came as the guest of this country's rulers. We thought they were serious in their tough stance regarding the Israeli positions on nuclear weapons, war threats, and punishing Egypt. Instead of standing up to the Zionist criminal acts, Egypt's rulers indulged in their generosity toward Rabin and Peres, inviting the Zionist prime minister to an urgent summit that brought him together with Yasir 'Arafat, the Jordanian monarch, and Egypt's president.

It is clear that the ruling regime in Egypt is no longer capable of rising to the level of national hopes, even if this saves their face and makes up for their repeated humiliation by the enemy's senior leaders and officials.

Over a week ago we heard a different tone in the handling of the issue of signing the Nonproliferation Treaty. Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations, Dr. Nabil al-'Arabi, said some things to show such a tone. During a meeting with students in the past few days President Mubarak pointed out that he views the issue from the angle of the Israeli actions. He said: "If Israel takes one step, we will take two." This contradicts what he has been repeating of late, that Egypt will not sign the Treaty until Israel does. These words made the headlines of his ruling party's newspaper in the issue before last.

The rulers' shocking recantation confirms that they have become accustomed to retreating rather than standing fast in any battle, even if the battle involves Egypt's national security. Nothing proves this more than Shim'on Peres' remark that signing the Treaty would not be on the agenda of the quadripartite summit.

What objective could that summit have had other than to form a front against Syria, which still stands alone, refusing to relinquish the Golan, especially as the ruling bunch are making insinuations and accusing Syria of obstructing the settlement process and delaying an agreement with the Zionists?

Egypt's rulers, who display their might before their subjects and proceed sluggishly over reconciliation with Arab and Muslim brothers, are the same rulers who demonstrate lightning speed in responding to the demands of Zionists and Americans. They are the same rulers who break all the formalities to receive Zionist officials, whose visits to Egypt have broken records they never dreamed of breaking.

Egypt's rulers have opened the land of Egypt to the Zionists and symbols of capitulation to let the enemy's plots and schemes to control the region come into effect. But let these rulers know that they are committing a deadly sin and an appalling crime that the entire nation has rejected. There will be no conciliation or peace with the Zionist enemies of God and the homeland until all the occupied Arab territories are returned to their rightful owners.

Writer Views Nuclear Issue, U.S. 'Pressure'

NC0602170895 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 Feb 95 p 9

[Article by Salah al-Din Hafiz: "Towards a National Consensus Against Israel's Nuclear Terrorism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now that the truth about the nuclear terror and terrorism Israel is practicing against us has become clear—in view of the fact that it is the only nuclear power in the region that has reactors, research, and production in addition to the vast and destructive arsenal of between 200 and 300 nuclear heads ready for use—the problem is not one of political maneuvers, blackmail attempts, or verbal arguments between Egypt and Israel anymore.

It is not a mere political difference between the official Egyptian-Arab and Israeli views on the advantage of signing or not signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation treaty [NPT] anymore. The issue is not limited to a dispute between the governments and rulers or confined to the halls of negotiations. The gravity of this issue has taken it beyond all this.

The question of the Israeli nuclear terror has become an issue for public opinion in Egypt in particular and in the majority of Arab countries. It is the focus of attention and is being followed up. It enjoys a large measure of backing and support following Israel's success in placing the future of the "evasive" Middle East peace at the tip of its nuclear weapons arsenal. Public opinion in our country has realized that peace based on nuclear terror is meaningless, that there can be no stability if the balances remain deficient and lopsided, and that there is no hope in the "promised" prosperity as long as a single power—Israel—retains absolute hegemony that is always protected by the nuclear arsenal while we remain naked without any protective deterrent umbrella.

I was discussing this grave issue a few days ago with a senior official who has a long Arab and international expertise and a profound experience with this same issue. He said, among other things, that this crisis has succeeded in restoring public opinion and the political forces in all their trends and leanings to a stance of national and pan-Arab consensus, something we have been lacking for a long time.

We can, in fact, now claim that we are facing one of the decisive historic national and pan-Arab stances that raise the nation to the level of challenge for the sake of dignity, independence, and defense of the future of generations yet to be born. We claim that we have a firm, pan-Arab consensus that backs the stance taken by Egypt under President Mubarak's leadership against Israel's monopoly of nuclear weapons, which puts the future of

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peace, stability, and equitable security at the mercy of a fire that can never be extinguished. This national and pan-Arab consensus certainly reminds us of similar ones that were taken at other historic stances, such as the nationalization of the Suez Canal and the confrontation of the tripartite aggression in 1956, the resistance to the military defeat in the 1967 aggression, the support for the great crossing in the glorious October 1973 war, and the steely insistence on retrieving Taba even if it was a single inch of the homeland's soil. We are now waging a new round of a dangerous challenge against the Israeli nuclear terror.

In all these stances there was a correct national decision and a clear, cohesive, and bold national political determination on a clear national right that could not be relinquished. All of this mobilized the nation and united all its forces, even the opposition. The tremendous national consensus came into being, was challenged, and stood fast to the end.

We are close to such a situation now against a greater danger and challenge that is manifested by the attempt to impose an inequitable peace and an unbalanced stability under the threat of the Israeli nuclear terror. When the people woke up to the enormity of this terror and its present and future dangers, it rallied its forces to support the leadership's national political line and is even pressing the leadership to take a more hardline stance and to stand up to any possible regional and international pressures, regardless of their burdens and dangers.

We said in our article last week that we have the options to confront the Israeli nuclear terror and the Israeli-U.S. obduracy that wants to keep it forever an unsheathed sword over our necks. We said that the options start with the establishment of a strong Egyptian-Arab front and end with the inevitable possession of a deterrent weapon that can neutralize or balance the Israeli nuclear arsenal.

But the political action option always remains a compromise as long as the objectives are clear and the methods for achieving victory are identified. Thus political maneuvering has always been the tug of war between the negotiating parties in the same way that the military maneuver has been the tug of war between warring armies. The nuclear weapons battle between us and Israel is no less fierce than all the wars we fought and is no less difficult than all the negotiations we entered into when we sought a just and comprehensive peace, a balanced stability, and equitable security.

Because we do not, very frankly speaking, have at least for the time being the ability to destroy Israel's nuclear arsenal and remove this terrifying monopoly, the current stage is one of political action, the stage of "finger biting." This requires first that the political leadership hold fast to its courageous stances. It also requires a popular backing based on a patriotic consensus that bypasses party and factional differences, a clear vision, and the ability of an unlimited steadfastness against the unlimited pressures.

Israel's excuse for keeping a horrifying nuclear arsenal—even when it is holding peace talks, promising a new prosperous Middle East, and calling for historic reconciliation between the sons of Abraham—is based on its claim that it is a small nation in a giant Arab and Islamic world, some of whose countries possess weapons of mass destruction and others that insist on antagonizing and destroying Israel. There is, therefore, a need for Israel to protect its security with a deterrent weapon. But the counterargument offered by Egypt and the Arabs is very simple: If Israel is serious in its peace claims and really wants to be part of the region and coexist with it on equal footing, then the claims of antagonism and the allegations of destruction are baseless. Moreover, there is an essential contradiction between the desire for stable peace and the insistence on keeping weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons. This will definitely push the others toward a race to obtain conventional, chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, knowing that open world markets are selling every "commodity" on the spot for whoever pays. You can ask Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, France, China, and North Korea, and you can even ask the secret market in the United States itself!

But this political tug of war over the nuclear arsenal is no longer confined to some Arabs on one side and Israel on the other. In fact, it has a third side, the United States, not only in its capacity as the sponsor of the peace process between the sons of Abraham, or in its capacity as the vicious defender of Israel's absolute superiority, but also because it is installing itself as the only leader of the alleged new world order, an order that wants to manage world affairs as it pleases, control crises in accordance with its policies and interests, and determine the destiny of others using its own standards!

No doubt, we feel the strength of the American intervention as a side to the tug of war between us and Israel over the latter's possession of nuclear weapons. It is an unfair and biased intervention because it fully supports Israel's theories of nuclear superiority and regional hegemony at the expense of the interests and future of the "Arab allies," particularly Egypt. It is no secret that the current U.S. Administration under President Bill Clinton has applied tremendous pressure on all sides—except for Israel, of course—to stop the ongoing political controversy and to force those sides to unconditionally sign the NPT, even if Israel fails to sign it!

It is also no longer a secret that the American pressure has already begun to bear fruit. Here are some Arab countries announcing that they will sign the NPT irrespective of the positions of other countries. And here are some other Arab countries engaging in tactics and maneuvers, not to justify their subjugation to the American pressure, but also to convince Egypt—or perhaps pressure it—to soften its hardline position so that it will not clash with the United States or detonate the hoped-for peace!

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Certainly, Egypt does not want to clash with the United States; the two countries are bound by strong relations and mutual interests. Nor does Egypt want to torpedo the peace process because peace has been a firm objective and a source of major benefits for Egypt since it began the peace march in 1979. Certainly, Egypt cannot take all that and is not willing to face its burdens and risks. But Egypt, rulers and ruled, cannot live—and it is the big regional power in terms of weight, population, caliber, and influence—under the nuclear horror of another side, especially if this side is on its border, like Israel.

Despite the clarity of this Egyptian position, which enjoys a tremendous national consensus, the United States—the effective force in the equation—does not want to understand it. On the contrary, it is strongly pressuring Egypt and fiercely pressuring Egypt's Arab sisters so that they all comply with the U.S. will and the Israeli hegemony without grumbling, hesitation, or argument; otherwise, there will be punishment!

But what kind of punishment can the United States mete out on us if we continue to stand fast, defending our position and our right to live in peace and stability, away from the threat of Israel's nuclear horror?

First, we have to realize that we are compelled to deal with the current U.S. Administration, led by the Democratic Party, for at least two years, or perhaps for a full six years if the Democrats win the battle of reelection for President Clinton two years from now. We have to deal with this situation in the right way out of our eagerness to protect our interests first and, second, out of our realization of the nature of the close historic alliance between the U.S. Democratic Party on one side and the Zionist Lobby and Israel on the other. This alliance is evident in the making of the current U.S. policy toward the Middle East in general and toward Israel's conventional and nuclear superiority over all the Arabs in particular.

In conclusion, one can say that both the party in power and the opposition in the United States might use the aid weapon to exert strong pressure on Egypt. Taking into account that this aid is currently $2.1 billion a year, we can appreciate how much pressure it can put on us, always bearing in mind that six out of every seven dollars of this aid eventually returns to the United States. According to one recent study, Egypt benefits by one out of every seven dollars.

For the sake of the truth and to enlighten our strong national consensus, not to frighten or frustrate it, we state that cutting off aid is not the only weapon that the United States can use against us. It has others, including attempting to marginalize Egypt's role in the Arab region; inciting the Arab "allies" against Egypt; laying siege to Egypt's worldwide alliances and relationships; inciting international institutions, particularly the IMF and the World Bank, to halt aid to us; and finally operating even on the Egyptian domestic scene. This might not stop at merely encouraging the opposition but might extend to aiding extremist factions, bearing in mind that the United States has conducted a dialogue with these factions behind everyone's back.

All these are distinct possibilities. If matters get more complicated and reach the flash point, all these scenarios will become applicable. What counter scenarios do we have?

As a way of refreshing our national memory, we state that more than any other country Egypt is accustomed to confrontations and challenges. Our generation still remembers the glowing nationalist and pan-Arab clashes with European colonialism and U.S. hegemony and the wars against Israel. It still remembers the days of pride and continues to nurture its sons and grandsons in the tradition of the great conflicts, including the July revolution's dethronement of the king, the dismissal of the agents of colonialism, the nationalization of the Suez Canal, the restoration of foreign businesses to Egyptian ownership, the building up of a thundering popular Arab force, the clashes with Israel in victory and defeat, the restoration of dignity in the glorious October-Ramadan war, the liberation of the last grain of national soil in Taba, and finally the refusal to submit humbly to Israel's nuclear hegemony, even if this is reinforced by inordinate U.S. firmans.

Putting aside the glowing memories of steadfastness, we state that the nation, united, is now urged to manage this crisis at the highest level. We can see the beginning of the crisis but do not know how it will end. The nation's various forces, with their different specializations, must draw up counter scenarios that can guarantee the steadfastness of a firm nationalist-pan-Arab stance. We need this to prevent our resolve from breaking vis-a-vis Israeli nuclear terror and U.S. pressure.

Perhaps we can now offer this assessment of what we must do. We must prepare ourselves from now on for a long-term confrontation with Israel in all spheres, for Israel will not forgive us the conflicts of the past or the current confrontation. We must restructure our public life, particularly our economy, to face the possible reduction or halting of U.S. aid, which will not continue forever anyway. We must upgrade our self-reliance and open for ourselves new doors of cooperation, or rather old doors that we have neglected out of preference for the U.S. door alone. In particular, we must strengthen our ties with Japan, China, India, Pakistan, Africa, and the united Europe. The latter, while maintaining its strategic alliance with the United States, always protects its interests and reserves the right to cooperate with other countries, even if they are opposed to the United States.

Haven't we said that despite the stormy and difficult confrontations awaiting us, we do have other options? The important thing is to have an enlightened political resolve, an unclouded outlook, a desire to accept challenges, and the ability to remain steadfast in a context of

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an overwhelming national and pan-Arab consensus. Let us try to do that, before it is too late.

U.S. Delaying Wheat Shipment Termed 'Pressure'

NC0602221595 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 1 Feb 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States has decided to delay a wheat shipment that Egypt originally asked for in December 1994 to redress a deficit in local supplies. Current supplies are sufficient until June 1995.

Supply Ministry sources have stated that the United States has begun to brandish foreign aid and wheat supplies as tools of foreign policy in this region and is trying to pressure the Egyptian Government into amending its positions on certain controversial issues.

AL-AHALI has learned that the government submitted another request for 200,000 tons of wheat to the French Government as a safeguard against any emergency and to draw some type of contrast between French and U.S. prices. France has already sent 50,000 tons of wheat as a grant.

Not for the first time, the EU has set the following condition: that Egyptian ministries or other government departments who receive such wheat grants must disburse funds equal to the value of the shipments to establish investment projects. The EU also stipulated that EU officials should supervise these projects.

Knowledgeable quarters expect wheat prices to rise worldwide by about $70 to the ton. The new prices will not include shipping costs.

Islamic Group Restructures, Appoints Leader

NC0602185295 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 1 Feb 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ali]

[FBIS Translated Text] Parallel to the Muslim Brotherhood's Shura Council, the terrorist organizations have installed Rif'at Zaydan, the fugitive terrorist accused with involvement in more than 100 terrorist operations, as their general amir [leader] at the level of the Republic and commander of their military wing. A security source says this is the first structural change of its kind. The groups usually appoint a commander for the military wing and a general amir. Together with Zaydan, the Shura Council of the so-called Islamic Group includes al-Bashir Kamal, Ahmad 'Abdallah, 'Abd-al-Hamid Abu-'Aqrab, and Muhammad 'Abid.

The security services tightened the siege around arms trade centers in Upper Egypt after five suspected members of the terrorist groups attacked the Agricultural Development and Credit Bank in Abu Qurqas and stole its safe.

In another development, Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Umar, director of the al-Minya Security Directorate, held a meeting for 200 officers from among the sons of the governorate who work at the directorate's various departments. They discussed methods of cooperation and ways to provide the state security agency with information about the movements of terrorists and those suspected of dealing with them. The security director warned negligent officers that they will receive deterrent punishments, including transfer to jobs outside the governorate and dismissal.

Security sources disclosed to AL-AHALI that Dr. Fu'ad 'Abd-al- Baqi used his apartment to shelter extremists fleeing from the confrontation in Mallawi. A warrant for 'Abd-al-Baqi's arrest was issued and the Muslim Brotherhood denied that he is a member of the group. About 10 years ago, with the blessing of the Muslim Brotherhood, he built al-Tawhid Mosque under his house and handed it to the Islamic Group after the struggle between the group and the Muslim Brotherhood over 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab Mosque and its ownership by the Islamic Group.

MB Leader Addresses 'Open Letter' to Mubarak

NC0402105395 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Jan 95 p 5

["Open Letter to the President of the Republic" by Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, MB]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your Excellency, believing in the Islamic concept of responsibility, both of the ruler and ruled; heeding the words of God's authoritative source who was above every ruler, [third Caliph] 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab, when he said "There is no good in you if you do not say it and no good in us if we do not listen"; in an honest to God effort to apply the principle of exchanged advice between the citizens and officials; relying on our collective love for this great, original, and noble country and our endeavor to dignify it and help it assume its status and undertake its pioneering cultural role amid the circumstances that the Arab nation is going through; and sensing the risks engulfing it and the need for the collective efforts of all the sincere powers to stand up to these risks, we write you this message in a quest for communication and contact.

I read in an opposition paper a translation of an interview [reference to Mubarak's interview with the NEW YORKER magazine] attributed to you, in which it was stated that America is in contact with the terrorists of the MB to whose thought and creed I belong and for whom I strive with all the loyal people to win their right to promote the word of God without restrictions or constraints and through all the legitimate ways and methods guaranteed by the Constitution and provided by the law. It is stated in the interview that "communication between them and America was conducted secretly at the beginning. The Americans imagine that they will correct

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the mistakes they made in Iran, where they were not in contact with Ayatollah Khomeyni and his extremist group before they took power. This group will never control this country, will never be on good terms with America, and will not be of any use to it." It is further stated in the interview that "hardliners clearly and simply want to seize authority." This is an accusation against the Muslim Brothers that they are violent, terrorists, and extremists; that they are on contact with America; and that they seek power with America's support. It also means that the president affirms that hardline groups, including the MB according to the interview, will not take power in Egypt. Many thoughts and questions came to my mind, particularly since I have lived with the MB and its call inside and outside jails, became conversed in its literature because of my position and connection, and lived its history. This allows me to emphasize a number of points:

- The Muslim brothers do not know extremism. They were the first to condemn it and refute its claims. They were also the first to define the specific tasks and the disciplines and rules governing propagators through the book "Propagators Rather Than Judges" [Du'ah La Qudah]. Using this book, the MB's corrected concepts, drew up sound lines and reiterated that preachers' weapon is the kind word and good counselling, as directed by the Koran and Prophet's tradition, and that their ammunition is reasoning with argument and proof, and drawing evidence from the Koran and from the teachings of His Prophet, may God's prayers and peace be on him.

They do not believe in terrorism and violence. They have condemned violence; denounced terrorism; declared their rejection of assault on lives, blood, beliefs, and thoughts; observed God in their country and with their fellow citizens; and sought the wellbeing and interests of the people.

They partook of political life as much as it was available to them and under the eyes and ears of the security organs and not in cellars and dungeons or behind walls. They ran the elections of popular and municipal councils, trade unions, and university staff clubs. No act of violence has been attributed to them over more than 20 years. Their records registered more giving and generosity and sound actions for the sake of public interests. Hence, accusing them of violence, terrorism, or extremism is refuted by reality, contradicted by facts, and not believed by minds.

In the MB's concept, opposition does not mean finding faults or blemishes but sincere advise, given for the sake of God, on the Muslim's ethics and morals. It is for the sake of the public interest, which is above all other interests. It means pointing the finger at the negative aspects to cure them and praising the positive ones to back the contributions and to have more achievements.

The MB members have at the same time emphasized—also within the limits of what is permissible—their commitment to democracy through their actual practices and their commitment to pluralism when they took part in all types and levels of elections. They are committed to the right to have power alternate between all forces and parties—without having anyone monopolize it or set himself up as its custodian—through honest elections in which the people express their choice and define the party that they trust or do not trust.

All countries that have made the democratic system their way of political life have declared that their concept of the democratic system means pluralism and the rotation of power. This means granting the freedom to form parties and to publish newspapers and the freedom of expression. Consequently, this undoubtedly means that all the national forces and parties have the right to exercise their role within the framework of the law and constitution without obstacles. They also have the right to seek power through all legal means and through the honest popular choice to implement their programs. It also means that correct pluralism and the sound democratic system do not make the rotation of power a crime and do not label as wrong any effort made by any popular forces or parties that comply with the law and constitution to reach power to achieve the public interest.

Since the constitution guarantees the MB the right to pursue propagation and political work and even all fields of activities just as it guarantees the same right to all the political forces and parties, then it is the MB members' right to exercise their role in the democratic system without restrictions, to seek power under the aegis of pluralism without being criminalized or faulted, and to work to implement their program that gives the country and citizens their freedoms; protects lives, honor, and beliefs; and ensures the right security and firm stability.

But despite all the above, the MB members have declared and affirmed on all occasions and through all means that they are not seeking power and that power is not their objective but are advocating Islam with the good word and the right example; spreading love and cordiality; reviving values, ideals, and contributions; demanding the application of God's shari'ah; and obeying soldiers for whoever undertakes this.

I believe that it is not right to say that those who believe in the people's role; who undertake the role of preaching the word of God; who seek His blessing; who are anxious to establish the closest of ties with all the people; who renounce power and authority; who demand the application of shari'ah to guarantee freedoms and protect honor, possessions, and blood; who have sacrificed and are sacrificing their blood and lives for the sake of this country's independence; and who reject all forms of foreign intervention or presence are seeking the amity or the support of a foreign party, forces, or capitals to seize power or to stab regimes in the back to bring them down. We believe that the security forces have numerous genuine available pieces of evidence and attestations of this truth.

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The MB has won confidence in the election in which it has taken part without any rigging or jumping from windows or from ceilings, and at the hands of elite voters who had willpower, broadmindedness, and a rich accumulation of knowledge.

Your Excellency the President: The security agencies have accused the MB of trying to penetrate some quarters and avenues on the state's map. But even if this is so, it is the right of every subject to ask: What prevents any party, popular force, or even any citizen from practicing its or his right to propagate their ideology, so long as this is in line with the Constitution, which states that Islam is the state's religion and that the shari'ah is its source of legislation, and in line with the country's traditions, identity, and authenticity that has taken root over the centuries? What if the National Democratic Party [NDP] or the army of advocates and followers penetrate the masses and, using persuasion and proper party action, block the way before the others, so long as it plays its partisan role in accordance with the Constitution and the law? And if it has not been penetrating, what is keeping it or what will keep it from doing so?

The people reached maturity decades ago. They have had experience in democracy and in parliamentary councils, they know how to differentiate and how to choose, and they know when to give and withdraw their confidence. They do not need custodianship or prohibition. Why not leave the matter or the mission up to the people to give their opinion and judgment, thus siding with the NDP, the Wafd, the Liberals, or the Islamic alliance or rejecting them all and siding with others? Also, what makes a popular force or a party able to penetrate all circles while others fail at penetration or existence?

The main issue, Your Excellency, lies in facing the dangers and challenges inside the country and at the regional level, including dangers and challenges that threaten security and undermine stability, chief among them being the Zionist danger that seeks to impose hegemony, cancel out the existence of all of us, and cripple the cultural role of all Arabs and Muslims. All sincere people acknowledge the threats this danger poses to everybody. Threats that require the confrontation and cooperation of everyone and a solid and strong unity of ranks around an objective program. The drafting of this program needs the participation of everybody at a free table of dialogue that brings together all forces in active participation and a true closing of ranks and under an atmosphere marked by freedom of expression and lifting of all restrictions. A nation that is confronting the arrogance of the Zionist enemy and its insistence to arm itself with weapons of mass destruction, while denying any weapons to those entitled to a right and a homeland, requires the grouping of all efforts and the mobilization of all resources and capabilities to back any positive stance in the face of the usurping Zionist entity and in the face of all dangers.

We ask God to bring all factions in the nation together in service to its unity and interests; make it triumph over its enemies; and grant it strength, vigor, and safety. He is the best advocate.

MB Suspects Remanded for Interrogation

NC0402154195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1353 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—The Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office remanded Ibrahim al-Bayyumi, a recently detained suspect in the Muslim Brotherhood's [MB] organization case, for a 15 day interrogation.

It also renewed for 15 days the remand of nine other suspects in the same case. They are Muhammad 'Ali al-'Arish, Hasan Isma'il 'Uthman, Muhammad 'Abdu Ibrahim, Yasir Muhammad 'Ali, Jamal 'Abd-al- Nasir Husayn, Sa'd 'Ismat al-Husayni, 'Abd-al-Khaliq Hasan 'Abd-al- Wahhab, Muhammad Hasan Faraj, and Ibrahim Khalil al-Za'farani.

The suspects are being interrogated on charges that include joining an organization established against the law and the Constitution and forming an illegal political party, as illustrated by their holding a series of organizational meetings of the banned Muslim Brotherhood.

In another development, al-Fayyum's branch of the Higher State Security Court, Emergency Section, met today and delayed sentencing until 4 April, in a case involving the hurling of explosives at citizens in the city's Qarun Square in 1990. The defendant in the case is Muhammad Ahmad 'Ali, alias Muhammad al-Najjar.

Article Views Government Policy on Muslim Brotherhood

NC0602195595 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 1 Feb 95 p 7

[Article by Aminah al-Naqqash in the "Against the Current" column: "The Government and the Muslim Brothers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government is wrong to think that it can resist terrorism and extremism by attacking the Islamic movement's moderate wing, arresting its symbols, and restricting its actions.

In successive weeks the authorities arrested Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn and a number of leading unionists from the Muslim Brotherhood, notably Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan, assistant secretary general of the Doctors Association and a prominent Muslim Brotherhood spokesman.

The campaign of arrests against the Brotherhood's symbols, occurring shortly before the professional associations elections due this spring and the People's Assembly elections due at the end of 1995, strengthens the impression that the government wing that does not distinguish

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between moderate and extremist Islamists is growing stronger. It encourages one to draw the conclusion that the government has decided to reduce the Muslim Brothers' influence and deal with them in their official capacity of being an illegal movement, although it had tacitly permitted them to operate in the past few years. Apparently the government is trying to rearrange matters in a way that will not make it necessary for it to intervene directly in the next general elections to prevent the Muslim Brothers from winning a minority of seats that will endow them with legitimacy and threaten the balance of power in the next People's Assembly.

The government, however, cannot decide the election results by reducing what it imagines to be Muslim Brotherhood influence unless it submits a platform responsive to the needs of a large segment of the electorate. It should also carry out political reforms that can guarantee honest and fair elections and give other movements and political parties who are opposed to the Muslim Brotherhood the chance of winning sufficient representation in the next parliament.

If the government does this, it will be giving preference to the political rather than the security method of handling the issue.

The moderate Islamist current that the Muslim Brotherhood represents is a historical fact on Egypt's political map that must not be disregarded. Assaulting this current and laying siege to it will not destroy it but will only drive its moderate elements towards extremism. The role that society's various secular forces must play is to make the moderate Islamist trend become more moderate and to develop and modernize its ideas. Experience has shown that security measures have increased, not reduced, extremism.

At the same time the Islamic movement's moderate current must shoulder its responsibility and prove that it deserves to remain on the political map. It must submit real proof of its commitment to democracy and stop issuing fatwas confiscating other people's freedom of expression and literary and artistic freedoms. It must recognize its intellectual opponents and refrain from monopolizing religion and God in accordance with its own interpretations while neglecting other interpretations.

Maintaining stability is everyone's responsibility. Will they shoulder it?

Sudan's al-Bashir Views Ties, War With Israel

NC0402210395 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Tal'at Rumayh in Khartoum]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The main purpose of the Egyptian delegation's visit to Sudan was to attend the inauguration of the rice production project in al-Duwaym, the first fruit of Egyptian-Sudanese popular cooperation. However, the official meetings held with the delegation members, particularly the audience given by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir at the presidential office, the meeting with Dr. Hasan al-Turabi at the Islamic Arab Popular Conference headquarters, and the rallies, press conferences, and television appearances in connection with the visit, turned it into an Egyptian-Sudanese demonstration against all sources of tension in the bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

At 1130 on Thursday 26 January, the delegation met with President al-Bashir on the second floor of the presidency. The meeting was attended on the Sudanese side by Dr. Ghazi Salah-al-Din and press writer Musa Ya'qub. Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri started the meeting with a short speech in which he reviewed the delegation's meetings and activity. [passage omitted]

In his reply to Shukri's speech, Sudanese President al-Bashir said: I welcome the delegation and express my appreciation for the role it is playing in preserving Egyptian-Sudanese relations through your presence here and your efforts in Egypt. All this activity emphasizes the importance of preserving and developing these relations. We in Sudan have said this before, but we will repeat it again and again. We are convinced and believe that these ties are important and that they are predestined relations. When I say so, I mean that the destiny of Sudan is linked to the destiny of Egypt and vice versa.

Al-Bashir added: Normally, diplomatic relations end when military operations start, since military action heralds the end of diplomacy. Following the entry of Egyptian troops into the Hala'ib triangle, the Egyptian ambassador was summoned. I pointed out to him our belief in the importance of the Egyptian-Sudanese ties and that we in Sudan will not sever relations with Egypt. However, we will take precautionary measures to draw the attention of the brothers in Egypt to the importance of this relationship. It seems to us that the officials in charge of this matter in Egypt underestimate the importance of these ties. We are still at the stage of precautionary measures. Al-Bashir added: If we take our cause to any negotiating forum—be they bilateral negotiations, an international forum, or an arbitration panel—we are confident of our right to Hala'ib.

Al-Bashir noted that Sudan attributes particular importance to the issue of Hala'ib. He noted that Sudan had disregarded the Sudanese opposition's activity in Egypt, Egyptian diplomatic criticism of Sudan, and the fact that Egypt is fighting Sudan diplomatically and politically. He added: The efforts exerted by the brothers in Egypt and their accusations that Sudan supports terrorism and violates human rights have indeed affected Sudan's external relations, particularly in North Africa. Al-Bashir stated that Sudan's relations with the Arab states have been affected, thanks to "Egyptian efforts." He added that, despite all this, we are prepared to forget about all this, with the exception of the issue of Hala'ib, which he described as being under military occupation.

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Al-Bashir then spoke about prospects for the future. He said: We are certain that within two or three years our brothers in Egypt will come to realize the importance of this relationship. Our interest in this relationship is unquestionable. It is not new, but goes back a long way. Sudan is preoccupied with the war in the south. We are fighting in the south because we are part of the Arab nation. All that we, the northerners, are interested in is to Arabize Sudan. In the meantime, some Arabs are conspiring against us and supplying the southerners with weapons.

In conclusion, al-Bashir said: We are suffering and sacrificing martyrs, but we are prepared to forget because of our awareness of the importance of these ties. We know that there is a very large mass in Egypt that supports these ties and believes in them. We hope that the brother officials in Egypt will at least appreciate Sudan's importance to Egypt. We are certain that a war with Israel will break out no more than two or three years from now. Rabin has said so. Soon the Likud will take power in Israel and abolish all the agreements. The Jews are planning to build a greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. A war will break out; and when they fight Egypt, we will be part of the Egyptian force, the same as we were part of the Egyptian troops in the October 1973 war. We will serve as Egypt's rear area and will stand alongside Egypt in a war with Israel. We thank all those who show interest in this relationship and all those who try hard to resolve the existing differences and problems with Egypt. [passage omitted]

Libya

Citizens Advised Against Traveling to U.S.

MM0602170095 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Feb 95 p2

[Advertisement: "Consular Directives for Libyan Arab Nationals"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Due to the spread of adverse phenomena in U.S. society, threatening the lives and security of visitors to the United States, the Consular Affairs Department of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation urges Libyan Arab nationals not to visit the United States, for the following reasons:

1. The lack of security and stability in the United States and the spread of crime, drugs, and armed murder gangs threatening the security and lives of visitors of all races, especially Arabs and Muslims.

2. The spread of armed gangs, on the instructions of the American Intelligence Agency, for the purpose of killing and concealing foreigners, including Libyans, in order to trade in some organs of their bodies and carry out germ weapon experiments on them and inject them with serious contagious diseases such as AIDS and then send them back to their homeland to spread such diseses there, as in the case of Haiti and other countries.

3. The trumping up of charges of terrorism planned and executed by forces run by security organs to distort the image of Libyan Arab nationals in the eyes of the U.S. public.

4. The physical liquidation of Libyan Arabs studying in the United States, especially those who it sees have excelled in various sciences and have rejected the U.S. Administration's temptations and preferred to return to their homeland. There are many cases of the disappearance of Libyan citizens such as al-Yaziji and computer scientist al-Sadiq Faris. Some Libyans have also been killed and robbed such as Salih 'Abd-al-Salam al-Tarhuni and others.

5. The U.S. government's violations of human rights within American society, especially the rights of minorities, which means a lack of security and stability even for U.S. citizens. Suffice it to mention that U.S. organs assassinated human rights advocate Martin Luther King and were behind the assassination of former U.S. President John Kennedy.

6. The disregard for detainees' rights guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution. They are locked up in anonymous prisons suspervised by U.S. intelligence agencies and are arbitrarily treated without any regard for human rights.

7. The coercive method used by U.S. police organs against foreigners, a method which is a threat to the lives of visitors.

8. The persecution and humiliation of Muslims by the U.S. authorities and the religious fanaticism against them on the basis of false charges, putting obstacles and difficulties in their way which could lead to their death.

Radio Denounces U.S. Record on Human Rights

LD0602151895 Tripoli JANA in English 1427 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli 6 Feb JANA—The radio of the great Arab homeland, the voice of the revolutionary committees, has refuted the contents of the American State Department report, on what it described as the human and civil rights situation in those countries targetted by America, with the aim of undermining its sovereignty and independence.

The radio said these annual reports reveal that America has styled itself as a god over the earth, monitoring, surveying and issuing judgements of its own. It denounces and condemns as it likes.

The radio confirmed that America has the least right to speak about human rights. It is also the last one who has the right to condemn others of human rights violations. It is the last one which should issue reports on the state of human rights in the world.

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The radio said that no one in the world is ignorant about the situation of human rights in America. Where are the rights and where is humanity in this society where 40 million Americans are living under conditions of extreme poverty. What rights and what humanity have millions of Americans who sleep on pavements and in railway stations got? What is worse is the situation of ethnic minorities such as Red Indians, Blacks and Latin American immigrants. The record and the facts are clear and do not need any proof.

Isn't it enough that the American House of Representatives issued a resolution last month to deprive immigrants from Latin America and other countries from free health care and education, with various pretexts, at a time when rights in education and heath care are basic rights for human beings of which no one should be deprived regardless of there creed, race or religion.

The radio pointed out that freedom of expression is one of the aborted rights in American capitalist society where we find around 400 families possessing all the wealth of the society.

The evidence for this comes from a Western institution which is called Freedom House. It says that the right of expression is aborted in American society.

It added that what provokes greater cynicism in the report published by the American State Department this week and the so- called human rights situation in the world, is the expression mentioned in it which says in all indecency 'American commitment to encourage democracy and human rights as a basic part of American foreign policy'.

It said that this expression is as fraudulent as is anything American. Since the end of the Second World War and before that, American policy focused on the support of the worst tyrannical, authoritarian regimes round the world like that of the Shah of Iran, the regime of Duvalier in Haiti, the regimes of Kao Kui [name as received] and Lon Nol and other tyrannical regimes, which could not be outlined briefly.

In addition to this America is hatching conspiracies, plots and ploys and fascist military coups in this or that state, to make them submissive followers.

The radio of the greater Arab homeland, the voice of the revolutionary committees, questioned the democracy and human rights encouraged by America as the report alleges.

The radio said that the report by the American State Department regarding the so-called human rights situation in the world is a way of frightening, terrorising and starving nations by imposing blockades and unfair sanctions against the Iraqi people. Because of an American resolution thousands of Iraqi children are dying through lack of milk and medicine without that being, in the corrupted belief of America, in violation of human rights.

For more than two years the Arab Libyan people are facing the unfair sanctions without that being a violation of human rights in America's corrupt belief.

The American troops invade Haiti and impose a puppet regime following America with the force of steel and fire without that being in the corrupt American belief, a violation of human rights. This also took place in Panama, Grenada, Somalia, the Cuban embargo, the threat to northern Korea and others.

After all this America wants the people to discard their mentality and belief that American foreign policy is dedicated to the encouragement of democracy and human rights.

Mauritania

Detained Opposition Leaders Reportedly Released

AB0302221595 Paris AFP in French 1952 GMT 3 Feb95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nouakchott, 3 Feb (AFP)—The eight opponents of the Mauritanian regime who were placed under house arrest on 23 January following street riots to protest a bread price hike, were freed today, according to authoritative sources.

Hamdi Ould Mouknass, president of the Union for Democracy and Progress [UDP] has already arrived at home in Nouakchott, the party headquarters stated. The other opponents, including Ahmed Ould Daddah, secretary general of the Union of Democratic Forces [UFD], the main opposition party, are expected back home in the early hours of the evening, the same sources stated.

On 21 and 22 January, hundreds of young people from the working class districts of the Mauritanian capital, demonstrated against a 25-percent bread price hike, attacking shops and vehicles with stones and clubs. Prime Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker said that the regime's opponents, who were placed under house arrest in the interior of the country, would be "free to move about when the situation returned to normal." He had described the demonstrations as "planned and premeditated acts of subversion by some political parties," stating that opponents of the regime have been arrested to stop the movement of instigation to violence." The eight opposition parties had categorically denied calling their activists out to demonstrate.

The bread price hike followed the institution of a 5-percent tax on food and a 14-percent tax on industrial goods. According to the government, these taxes which replace two duties, should not have been passed on by traders to prices of basic commodities. The Mauritanian capital was placed under tight military surveillance and light tanks were deployed in the working class districts where the demonstrations started. A curfew was imposed from 2000 to 0600 from 23 to 31 January.

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Ahmed Daddah Condemns Poor Prison Conditions

AB0502181395 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Mauritanian Government has made some large concessions by rescinding certain measures taken after the 21 and 22 January demonstrations, which followed the 25-percent bread price hike, and which made the government impose a curfew in Nouakchott as well as put under house arrest eight opposition leaders picked up by the police at the time. As we know, the curfew was lifted early this week with the start of the Ramadan month of fasting. Now, these opposition leaders have been released, but they are still bitter about the bad treatment to which they were subjected and say that it was a strategy by the authorities to try to weaken them. Ahmed Ould Daddah, secretary general of the Union of Democratic Forces [UFD], spoke to Salem Meshbour Salem soon after his release.

[Begin Daddah recording] It can obviously be seen from all this masquerade that there is a desire to neutralize or even suppress the opposition, especially, the UFD of which six standing committee members were arrested. I should also add that behavior unworthy of our country was observed. The fact that Hamdi Mouknass, who everybody knows is sick, was unable to take his medication is a disgrace to this government. The fact that Abdulkader Hamnad, an eminent lawyer and member of our standing committee, was conveyed in the trunk of a vehicle between Nouakchott and [Oussividja] is also a shame that we wish to condemn just as we condemn all the irresponsible behavior, which led to the impasse observed recently. [end recording]

After being so sorely tested, the Mauritanian opposition leaders have still kept intact their determination to continue their fight for the improvement of the living conditions of their compatriots as well as for a political change in Mauritania. Let us listen to Ahmed Ould Daddah.

[Begin Daddah recording] We are even more than ever determined and committed to continue our fight for change, democracy, respect of human rights, unity in Mauritania, and the well-being of the people as well as consideration of their real living conditions. Our party started this struggle and it must continue with it regardless of the price to be paid, and regardless of the futile intrigues to break the unshakeable desire of the Mauritanian people to change the manner in which they are being governed and treated. [end recording]

Sudan

Government Denies Bombing Positions in Uganda

EA0502152795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has denied the bombing of any positions inside the Ugandan border. 'Umar Yusuf Birido, the undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, said that the Sudanese Armed Forces have been given clear instructions not to cross the border between the two countries. He said this today when he summoned the Ugandan charge d'affaires in Khartoum.

Mr. Birido expressed his regret over accusations that the Sudanese Air Force bombed areas in Uganda, and over the media campaign which accompanied the accusations. The Foreign Ministry undersecretary said it will be better to tackle these issues by peaceful means.

Radio Cites Eritrea Claims of Harboring Rebels

EA0302153095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 2 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Eritrean president, Isayas Afewerki, reiterated his allegations against the Sudan on alleging that Sudan harbors (?some rebels) and is working to de-establish [as heard] neighboring countries.

In a press interview to an Ethiopian newspaper, he said his country is ready to restore its diplomatic relations with the Sudan if Sudan stops its military training of jihad groups. The renewed allegations of the Eritrean president follow the [word indistinct] of the Eritrean Government to convince the United Nations Security Council to issue a decree commending [as heard] these allegations.

It is worth mentioning that the Eritrean Government presented two complaints on those allegations, but the Security Council said these are two political disputes and have got nothing to do with the international peace.

Al-Bashir Urges Better Relations With Egypt

NC0402080395 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 30 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Imad-al-Din Husayn]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khartoum—Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir has stressed that an Arab-Israeli war will break out during the next three years and that Sudan will be Egypt's strategic depth in any confrontation with the Zionist enemy. He added that Khartoum supports Cairo's stance on the nuclear question in the Middle East.

In response to a question from "AL-'ARABI" on the Sudanese measures against the Egyptians and their possessions in Khartoum and the constant media attacks on Egyptian policies, al-Bashir said in an exclusive statement: "Come and let us first sit down and see who is trying to create a split and problems. The Egyptian media is constantly attacking us."

In his meeting with a delegation representing some Egyptian parties, al-Bashir added: Our hand is extended to Egypt and we still believe in our fateful relations. But Egypt's accusations of terrorism have affected Sudan's relations with many countries. He added that Sudan is

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paying the price for its Arabism and Islamic identity in its war to prevent the secession of the south, a secession that will primarily affect pan-Arab and Egyptian security.

In an exclusive statement to "AL-'ARABI," First Vice President Maj. Gen. Salih al-Zubayr said: We do not believe that there is a real problem with Egypt and we are waiting for it to take a step as a sign of good intentions. He stressed that Khartoum stands in the same trench against the Zionist threats to Egypt.

On the same issue, Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih told "AL- 'ARABI" that the situation between the two countries could be described as "floating" and there is a crisis of confidence between them but there is "no real disease." He called for an alliance first between the two countries, but asked: Is Egypt ready or not? The matter requires a message from Cairo.

In statements made to some Egyptian correspondents following his return from the OAU foreign ministers' meeting in Addis Ababa, Abu- Salih said: The current Arab conditions requite an urgent meeting between Mubarak and al-Bashir to resolve the differences, activate the Arab League's role, and create a common Arab stance, otherwise we will be at the mercy of Israel. He stressed that Sudan received the tripartite Alexandria summit with deep pleasure. He noted that Hala'ib is not the problem because Sudan wants millions of Egyptians to settle there and help cultivate the extensive Sudanese lands. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Ambassador in Khartoum Dr. Hasan Jad-al-Haqq told 'AL-'ARABI: "We are deeply pained by some of the practices against us but we are ultimately one people bound together by ties of blood and neighborliness and we will not let anyone fragment Sudan." [passage omitted]

Minister on Egyptian Decision on River Links

EA0502155195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Transport Minister 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Latif has said that if the Egyptian Government pursues its demand for the dissolution of the Nile river navigation authority belonging to the two countries then Sudan will demand the dissolution of the joint projects between the two countries as they are integration projects. The minister said that the Egyptian demand suggests a desire on the part of Egypt to heighten political tension, and that the Egyptian Government has been working to aggravate issues between the two countries. He said the Sudanese Government has not, so far, reached a decision on the Egyptian request for the dissolution of the Nile authority. It is dealing with the subject with wisdom and reflection, and is thinking about the future of relations between the two countries.

Islamic Organization Said To Fund 'Extremist' Groups

NC0302134895 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Jan 95 p 1

["Exclusive" report from Khartoum]

[FBIS Translated Text] Political observers in Khartoum have stated that the Islamic propagation organization receives enormous amounts of money from the Islamic World League in Saudi Arabia in addition to alms money from wealthy Saudis. The organization's secretary general is Sudanese Field Marshal 'Abd-al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab [led a military coup against former President al-Numayri in the 1980's]. The observers say the organization obtains these funds under the guise of spending them on the poor. But the contributions are quickly leaked to terrorist and extremist groups.

Official: Elections To Take Place After Ramadan

EA0302190995 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Nahhas, chairman of the General Elections Commission, has announced that the elections in the geographical constituencies will begin immediately after the end of the Ramadan festival. He pointed out that in most states the registration of voters is 80 to 90 percent completed. He described this as an indication of the success of the election process. [passage omitted]

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Bahrain

Riot Detainees Reportedly Confess Involvement of 'Inciters'

MM0702111095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Feb 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Bahrain: Pictures Published for First Time of Those Accused of Involvement in Arson, Sabotage, and Rioting in al-Badi' Street Incidents"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Official sources in Manama said yesterday that "those accused of involvement in recent rioting and subversive actions have made new and exciting confessions to the examining magistrate. The confessions prove that the actions they committed were in implementation of a prior plan, assignment, and encouragement from the inciters."

The sources said that "members of the arrested groups revealed in their confessions that the inciters and planners held meetings with them, where they incited and prompted them to commit the crimes of rioting, violence, and sabotage," commending such actions. The sources said that "they were divided into small groups of four to six people; each group had a leader. They were assigned to commit the crimes of arson and subversion."

The sources said that "members of these groups admitted going at night to two electricity transformers in the 'Ali area with the tools and substances they used to sabotage and burn them." [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Foreign Affairs Spokesman on Summit Prospects, Iran

MM0702110695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Feb 95 p 4

[Interview with Jasim al-Saqr, chairman of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee, by Faris al-Salman in Kuwait; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Salman] There are numerous studies and reports on armament operations in the region. Is your committee studying these operations?

[Al-Saqr] That is a very delicate question. The question of Iran and armament is not a disputed fact, and we have exchanged views with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and reviewed current events in the region. Iran is entitled to strengthen and arm itself. No one has the right to object to this. As for ourselves, we are the weak point, and if matters are achieved on the basis of wishes, we wish for the region to be dominated by the best of relations between the Arabs and the Iranians. [sentence as published] This is because of numerous considerations, including heritage and geographical considerations. Iran is an Islamic state to which we are bound by common history. Arab and Iranian interests prompt that relations be at their best level.

[Al-Salman] It has been reported recently that Syria is making efforts to hold an expanded Arab summit in which Iraq would participate. Do you believe that conditions are favorable for holding such a summit?

[Al-Saqr] I believe that matters are developing rapidly. I have heard that report before, but the committee has not received any official confirmation of it.

A summit—regardless of the results—is a pressing necessity. But it is agreed that some summit conferences do not achieve the Arab peoples' aspirations. Maybe international conditions and interactions have something to with the failure to implement some resolutions. [passage omitted]

Programs of Islamist Opposition Groups Outlined

95AE0016A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 30 Dec 94 pp 32-33

[Article by Riyadh 'Ilm-al-Din: "Three Fundamentalist Movements Confront the Government"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What are the boundaries of the open confrontation between the government and the Islamic movements in Kuwait? Kuwaitis are beginning to ask this question with urgency in view of the growing role of the Islamists and their challenge to the authorities. In this investigation from Kuwait, AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI reveals the secrets and dimensions of this confrontation, as well as the true wager [rahan] of the Kuwaiti Islamists. They are an economic, financial, and social force that prompts many to speak of their "states within a state," which they are now attempting to use for political purposes. What is happening in Kuwait?

The Islamic political movement in Kuwait is developing rapidly and forcefully, becoming the sole opposition in this country that has not fully eliminated the effects of the Iraqi aggression and has so far been unable to recover from that shock. Kuwait is searching for its identity. This is obvious, as it is among the issues being brought up on the political level in the Kuwaiti National Assembly and in the daily discussions going on in the press, the diwans, and television programs, especially the program "Hot Issues," which is considered a first in Kuwait. Its weekly program mainly limits itself to presenting material on the application of Islamic law (the Shari'ah) and opposing the phenomenon of Westernization, itself the subject of much discussion.

Kuwait's future undeniably depends on the outcome of this confrontation between the Islamic movement and the liberal movement, which is largely represented by the big merchants and the government. This confrontation raises not only the issue of applying Islamic law, but also, indirectly, the issue of who is to rule.

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Through three main movements, the Islamic movement has grown rapidly since Kuwait's liberation, demonstrating its mounting control over the political and social arenas and revealing much of its financial capacity. In the view of Jasim al-Saqr, chairman of the National Assembly's foreign affairs committee: The Iraqi invasion and Kuwait's liberation brought all issues to the surface, even exposing what had been hidden behind the cover of economic malaise. Many reactions to imported customs emerged and many questions were raised, prompting the National Assembly to form fact-finding committees to determine the causes of the invasion and the evaporation of the nation's resources. The Islamic movement was the first to raise these issues, using the shock to propose its ideas and control the common people, to the point where it has become the sole opposition at the expense of the former, preinvasion opposition represented by the nationalist movement.

The "Islamic Constitutional Movement" [al-harakah al-dusturiyah al-islamiyah], the Muslim Brotherhood's political vessel, is considered the most important of the Islamic movements in Kuwait. However, as noted by Dr. Isma'il al-Shatti, National Assembly member and one of the most important leaders of this movement, "there is no longer a relationship with the Brotherhood because of its position on the invasion." Prior to the invasion, the Brotherhood was operating through the "Social Reform Society" [jam'iyat al-islah al-ijtma'i], a charitable association representing the movement's cultural and social facade.

The movement officially emerged in March 1991 in the aftermath of Kuwait's liberation. An organic extension of the "Murabitun" movement that was formed during the occupation, it began its activities under the slogan "toward an Islamic constitutional strategy to rebuild Kuwait." This movement does not call for establishment of an Islamic state along the lines of Sudan, as Dr. Isma'il al-Shatti confirms, but demands constitutional amendments in order to form a government with an elected, popular majority.

As for the second Islamic movement, it is the "Popular Islamic Grouping" [al-tajammu' al-islami al-sha'bi], the official political facade of Kuwait's fundamentalist (salafiyyah) group, which played a prominent social role during the Iraqi occupation when it managed societies and operations to distribute money. It is represented by Ahmad al-Baqir, a National Assembly member who calls for establishment of an Islamic state and amendment of the Constitution and demands removal of members of the ruling family from ministerial posts. Total secrecy envelops the group's organizational structure: neither the founding organization nor the principal leaders are known.

While the two previously mentioned movements are considered Sunni movements, the "Islamic National Alliance" [al-i'tilaf al-islami al-watani] stands out as a generally Shiite alliance. This alliance agrees with the other movements on constitutional issues. Although its leaders deny any connection with foreign organizations, they admit their intellectual kinship with other Shiites around the world. This alliance supports opening the door to naturalized citizenship, unlike the fundamentalist movement, as the naturalization issue could strengthen the Shiite religious movement, because it directly affects the mostly Shiite Bidoon.

Reaching Out To the Tribes

No longer restricting its activities to the urban sectors of Kuwaiti society through its charitable societies, the Islamic movement has expanded its base to include the tribes. The "Islamic Constitutional Movement" has been most active. Among its leaders are influential tribal figures such as Mubarak al-Duwaylah of the al-Rashayidah tribe, a prominent member of the movement and one of the top orators in the National Assembly. It is he who leads "the attack" against the regime. This Islamic penetration of the tribes has increased the numbers of the Islamic movement in the National Assembly, where they now number 60, or more than one-third of its members. If government members are not counted, they account for more than half the total.

The Islamic movement controls a number of Kuwait's social and economic institutions. Through charitable societies and private newspapers, it controls a wide sector of society. Most of the many charitable organizations are branches of three societies belonging to the three Islamic movements. There is the Alliance's Cultural Society, the Islamic Constitutional Movement's Reform Society, and the fundamentalists' Heritage Society. Each movement has its own newspapers and magazines, such as the Constitutional movement's SOCIETY magazine and the FURQAN magazine of the fundamentalists, while the "Alliance" prefers to express its views in articles normally published in all newspapers.

The power of the Islamic movements is revealed most in economic institutions, for these are wealthy movements owning many buildings and financial houses. The Constitutional movement actually owns a huge commercial and residential complex. The Islamic movements control the country's most important distribution sector through cooperative societies, in the form of giant business firms located everywhere; they influence both economics and politics, leading some to begin calling them "states within a state."

Founded in 1951, the first of these consumer cooperatives now is composed of 42 societies with a membership of 177,450 and subscription capital of 7 million dinar (KD). The cooperative's sales reached KD552 million last year. These societies are commercial centers for the sale of all kinds of consumer goods at low prices subsidized by their treasuries, and they have elected administrative councils in every electoral district.

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It is apparent that the Islamic movements have taken complete control of these societies, as most members of the administrative councils are members in the Islamic movements. The administrative councils are often the first step for these members toward self-nomination for the National Assembly, using their positions, name recognition, and fame within the district in which these societies are located.

Monopolizing Charitable Work

In addition to the need to sell low-priced commodities, there is a law that permits societies to distribute 20 percent of their profits to charitable societies, which generally are controlled by the Islamic movements. The societies' prices are obviously equivalent to market prices, with the profits currently going to finance the Islamic movements' activities, always through profit distributions. The administrative councils have begun to influence domestic trade directly, forcing importers and middlemen to take into account when making their plans the societies' importance as an enormous marketing power. Furthermore, these societies have begun to influence foreign trade through the large-scale imports of the Societies' Union. The societies have great influence in defining and directing the consumer's wants, as well as in affecting the degree of liquidity in the banking system. It has been said that the societies resolved the liquidity problem in the al-Manakh [local stock market] crisis through their deposits in the banks.

Eighty-five Percent of Sales of Commodities and Raw Materials

There is no doubt that the importance of this sector has made it an area of primary concern for the Islamic movements, who through it have taken control of the markets and the country's commercial activities, as well as a large percentage of the banks' cash liquidity. Some of these cooperatives have become bully pulpits for fundamentalist ideas being used for purely commercial purposes. For example, a cooperative society prohibits the sale of a commodity under the pretext that it does not comply with Islamic law, while the administrative council markets another, competing commodity. This is what happened in a case where the sale of chicken was prohibited because "the covering violated Islamic law," as well as one in which the sale of dolls was banned because they were in the shape of girls!

In addition to controlling the societies, the Islamic movements use the societies themselves to gather donations in special boxes in the name of assisting victims of the occupation. This method is used in front of mosques and on the streets, to the point where the government has begun to think seriously of prohibiting it and taking the donations to be distributed officially through the proper departments. Minister of Awqaf Dr. 'Ali al-Zumay' has announced that the government is preparing a plan aimed at separating Islamic activities through all their institutions from the political Islamic movements' political program. He said that the government will take measures in the near future to organize charity work in Kuwait, supervise the collection of donation money, and remove alms committees from the mosques. The minister is preparing a study called "The Charter for Mosques" dealing with the mosques' relationship to society, in order to distance political work from the mosques and control the Friday sermons.

This official position reveals the importance of the Islamic movement in Kuwait and the state's concern over the increase in this movement's influence over political life. Over the last four years this movement has been able to cross all the red lines. Even though it has not taken or has refused to take positions on the country's foreign policy and has stuck to the government's line, it has begun to raise issues that touch directly on the state's structure and political composition. This has been evident in a number of the issues it has raised recently.

For instance, the Islamic movement has brought up the issue of amending the Constitution's second article, demanding that Islamic law be declared "the sole and principal source," instead of "a principal source." This resulted in an important contest, during which the idea of amending the sixth article, the one that refers directly to the hereditary form of government, emerged. The Islamic movement, and Dr. Isma'il al-Shatti in particular, has denied that the Islamists are demanding a caliphate regime or establishment of an Islamic state, stating that this is not on the table and that there are traditions that cannot be violated. However, the movement is really demanding a change in the ruling regime. Al-Shatti says that a law regarding political parties must be drawn up; this, in his opinion, does not conflict with the Constitution, which permits formation of Islamic parties. Although al-Shatti rejects formation of parties founded on ideology, he considers that the issue of Islamic law is proposed on this level, saying that the government must come to represent the majority.

In this context, Mubarak al-Duwaylah says that "what is needed now is to separate the succession to the throne from the prime ministry. If the ruling family wants to retain the prime ministry, it must form a party and join in the election battle to obtain a majority." Al-Duwaylah challenges the ruling family to enter the elections. This is a big challenge in Kuwait, and is the talk of the town. Among al-Duwaylah's advisors, there are many suggestions from members of the Constitutional Movement organization that go beyond this to propose complete separation between the executive authority and the ruling family to prevent appointment of family members as government ministers.

Battles on All Fronts

The Islamic movement is wading into fierce battles on all fronts. Two weeks ago it joined a fight to separate the sexes in the university and demanded that a new university be built to carry out this separation in accordance with Islamic law. The conflict over this reached the point of mutual mud-slinging; during a parliamentary session,

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the accusation was made that "some daughters of upper-class families are acting contrary to our values." The reaction from the ruling family's client merchant families was violent, and they are expected to lodge complaints against some National Assembly members from the Islamic movement. Despite the failure of the separation proposal, however, it is anticipated that it will be revisited this coming January through a higher education law.

Many laws concerning the application of Islamic law are being discussed, among them a banking law to prohibit usury, a licensing law for political parties, and a press law to enable the Islamic movement to obtain permits to issue daily newspapers. There are also laws regarding the family and the issue of mingling (of the sexes) in government departments.

The government has thus far been unable to take the initiative to confront this movement effectively—by forming a committee—[words illegible] ...to form a committee to study full application of Islamic law, which is considered a concession to the Islamic movement, and to avoid entering the battle. The Islamists are wagering on the Kuwaiti man on the street's accepting their ideas; thus they have focused on raising "popular" issues. The current campaign is centered on the issue of (financial) misappropriation and the causes of the Iraqi invasion. This is being directed by the Islamic movement, which is trying to win pressure cards to force constitutional amendments.

It is difficult to predict the results of this confrontation between the regime and the Islamic movement. As al-Duwaylah says, however, the Islamic movement has become powerful enough to force the removal of any minister in the government. In his opinion, the regime must take into account the strength and importance of this movement. He adds, "We are not for replacing the ruling regime, but for altering it."

Saudi Arabia

Council of Ministers Discusses Progress of Talks With Yemen

LD0702111895 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0025 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 7 Feb (SPA)—Under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, the Council of Ministers held its weekly session at 2200 [1900 GMT] this evening at the al-Yamamah palace in Riyadh.

Following the meeting, His Excellency Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said:

[Passage omitted] The Council of Ministers reviewed the events in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chechnya, and Afghanistan. It expressed its profound sorrow for the suffering which the Muslims in those regions have been enduring and the bloody battles which have been mowing down innocent people by the dozen every day.

In this connection, on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, and acting on the directives of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, the Council of Ministers renewed its appeal to international organizations, peaceloving states, and all the quarreling factions to continue efforts to end the fighting and bloodshed and to resort to tackling the conflicts by negotiations and dialogue. In this way they may succeed in halting the continuous bloodletting in order to safeguard the integrity of their peoples and the safety of their territories.

The information minister went on to say: "Following this, and out of the continued interest of the Council of Ministers in the progress of the current talks between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen which were started by Saudi and Yemeni delegations in Riyadh two weeks ago, and upon the directives of His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, may God preserve him, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz apprised the council of the outcome of the negotiations conducted so far. His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir explained a few details on which negotiations are under way with a view to reaching a common perception to the accord and agreement between the two fraternal countries." [passage omitted]

CDLR Bulletin on Saudi Events

MS0602154595 London CDLR MONITOR in English 6 Jan 95

[Bulletin No. 29 issued by the committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, CDLR, on 6 January; received by fax 6 February]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right To Know - To The Saudi People

Recently the Committee's office was inundated with calls and faxes with vehement complaints about the new tariffs and taxes. This is, of course, not news to us. We predicted this in our previous bulletins.

The reform project, should now be called the salvation project, as the top priority is not reform anymore, but the rescue of the country from inevitable disaster. These extortionate taxes and tariffs are only the preliminary to the terrible suffering which everyone in the Kingdom will experience, except the "ruling family". Before long, the state will be unable even to pay peoples salaries. It has already failed to meet its obligations to contractors and companies.

Our fear had been that Al-Sa'ud would have been able to hide the economic disasters caused by their mismanagement from the people, until the whole country collapsed

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around its astonished citizens. However, by the grace of God, their mismanagement is already greatly felt by one and all, who think positively about the reform project as the pain, and hardship of a long suffering people, make them more aware of the need for salvation. People will also know why their scholars have suffered and sacrificed so much in the struggle against tyranny, cruelty and theft on an unparalleled scale of their wealth by a handful of the most nefarious ruling class in history.

Recently Shaykh Salman spoke with a loud and clear voice against the criminal Al Sa'ud tendency to destroy the moral and the economic fibre of our nation. Even though our heroes like Shaykh Salman, knew that they would be detained, they gave no comfort to the tyrants, exposing the massive fraud being perpetrated on the people by their so-called rulers.

The Shaykh advocated a sensible process which would lead to liberation. His statement "Put us in prison but reform the country" was a serious embarrassment to our oppressors who feel that by jailing the leaders of the resistance they can stop the rot. Take into account the sense of outrage of the citizen when he pays twice as much for petrol, electricity, telephones and emigration visas to make up for the cost of Al Sa'ud's colossal embezzlement from the state's resources. Consider, too, his indignation as his wage is frozen and the "babies" of Al Sa'ud get tens of thousands of riyals?

When will Al Sa'ud stop insulting and belittling the intelligence of the people? This contempt is arrogantly manifested by the King's decision to appoint his son, 'Abd-al-'Aziz, a consultant in the royal council.

What is even worse is the contemptible and disgraceful slur on a London radio station by Bandar Bin-Sultan, when he deplored the ruin, even the miserly amounts spent on the people who have lived all their lives on the crumbs and leftovers from Al Sa'ud.

O our great Nation! We call on the honourable Shaykh, the noble young man, the professor in the University, the student, the civil servant, the desert dweller, the businessman, the farmer, the driver, the labourer, all the people of the Arabian peninsula. When will you put a stop to the degradation and humiliation heaped on you by the thieving and parasitical scoundrels of the house of Al Sa'ud? You have no more excuses. Your faith is being trampled on, your shrines desecrated yet many of you still come up with excuses for Al Sa'ud. Your country and land have been sold and pawned to insolent anti-Arab and racist foreign powers and all you could do is applaud. Your wealth and treasure have been brutally wrenched from your hands and you have remained silent. Your scholars and leaders have been thrown in prison in front of your eyes and now the most injurious taxes have been inflicted on you and you are still applauding. When will Al Sa'ud stop playing with your lives and your futures?

O people of the peninsula, if the honour of faith has not moved you, you should at least be moved by your own pride and self respect. Haven't you suffered enough to arouse in you a defiant spirit? The English poet Shelly, urged his own people who were just as docile and submissive as you: "Arise like lions from your slumber for ye are many and they are few."

O people of the peninsula, ail over the world, people have shed their blood for their freedom and honour. It would be a shame and a disgrace if the people of the peninsula, with their illustrious ancestry, became the most submissive nation and the least honourable and proud.

O honourable nation, the time has come to leave your fear behind and join the reform and salvation movement.

The Budget, "The Scandal"...

The budget has no connection with reality. Our rulers have ignored the latest political, social and economic developments, they still persist in boasting about the strength of the economy and trail the red herring of the Gulf crisis.

The King continuously claimed that the Gulf crisis is responsible for the economic collapse. We have already cited the authoritative findings of the International Energy Centre, which conclusively prove that the Kingdom has profited and not lost from the Gulf crisis. It is difficult for some people to understand the accuracy of these reports.

Since 1990 the Kingdom has cleverly acquired the quotas of Kuwait and Iraq in the petroleum market, producing at least 3 million extra barrels of oil daily. If this is calculated over a span of 4 years at an average price of 15 dollars per barrel, the total is at least 60 billion dollars. Most of the losses was the result of filling up the pockets of the agents and commission takers.

The financial ministry claimed that the Kingdom had the best record in the world on price stability. This is a mockery, as the people can see for themselves the sky rocketing prices over a short period of time. Subsidies, too, have been lifted with no previous warning. With regard to the budget, the figures are, as usual, for general consumption and will not be different to last year's figures, in the sense that there is a budget declared annually. Even then, there are several major concerns over these figures.

There were few details on various services, whilst others were ignored completely. Also, the budget did not mention the 61.7 billion riyal and how and where it would be spent. Areas such as defence were emphatically not mentioned. So, what does this mean? Why this lack of clarity?

Secondly, the budget deficit was not explained, nor how would it be handled? We know that the massive deficit will be made up by borrowing, but "how" is the question? Will the borrowing be internal or external?

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Thirdly, approximately 12 percent of the deficit will be extracted from the pockets of the citizens, through burdensome taxes and tariffs etc.

Fourthly, the financial ministry claims that the reduction in the budget amounts to 6 percent, whereas the King said that the reduction would be 20 percent. Why this yawning credibility gap even though the King was in close consultation with the financial ministry? We believe that there are three possible reasons for this:

1—The real reduction is 20 percent and the 6 percent is only for public consumption. Experts who saw the true figures said that this years budget is much less than the declared figures.
2—The King did intend to reduce the budget by 20 percent, but on the advice of economic consultants, he realised such a reduction would be impossible so he quickly back-tracked.
3—The King declared the 20 percent reduction, as an aside, when he was talking about the achievements of the National football and wrestling team. The budget was sandwiched in the middle, probably because the King was suspicious of the economic situation.

Fifthly there was no referral to the Consultancy Council in the budget declaration, even though protocol demanded this and despite the claims of 'Abdallah Nasif that the council revises the budget. We state that the tariffs decided by the King are exactly the same in figures, as put forward to the Consultancy Council a few months ago. This limits the role of the Council in their approval of whatever is put forward to them.

Sixthly, King Fahd's wish was to live long enough to see how the country changed under his leadership, presumably from a country that did not know how to spend money to a country that doesn't know where to get money from. Undoubtedly, the destruction of such an economic giant in the space of a few years deserves a special place in the books of record. Equally worthy of entry to the record books is the indecent speed with which society, religion and Nation were simultaneously destroyed.

News - War of False Communiques

A second false communique has been distributed this week. Please note that you will be alerted to any communique to be issued by the Committee in the weekly bulletin. Some of our supporters were surprised that the authorities had managed to get hold of their personal fax numbers. The Committee has learned since, that the authorities sent false communiques in an arbitrary manner. We would like to warn our supporters that the forthcoming fraudulent communiques may be even more dangerous and may contain false statements from the spokesman against the office manager or vice versa.

These maladroit efforts only serve to emphasise the regime's cynicism about its own increasingly capricious official media.

Interest Rates Increased...

The Committee learns that the Govt. has raised interest rates to 14.5 percent. It has also learned that large sums of money have been transferred out of the country after people have given up hope of any financial or economic improvements, especially after the budget.

Hypocrisy...

A joint declaration by the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria in Alexandria last week, gave an impression of unity and understanding towards Israel. We would like to stress that the obscene enthusiasm of the Kingdom for normalisation of relations with Israel is unstoppable. In the past weeks there were two important developments:

Firstly, the aeroplane that was carrying Rabin to Oman passed over Saudi airspace and was under Saudi protection.

Secondly, there is a plan to encourage Saudi investment in Israel. A delegation of businessmen went to Jordan as a first step towards this goal, planned by Salman Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz.

The Committee Costs Authorities 2.5 Billion Dollars...

The Committee learns that the total spent to counter the Committee's campaign is over 2.5 billion dollars. This includes the media and security campaign against the Committee and excludes the cost of the internal campaign of oppression against reformers and their supporters.

The Committee also learned that the two ambassadors in America and in Britain have been given a free hand to spend generously to disparage and damage the Committee.

Security in Jeddah...

A high ranking officer in the security services in Jeddah told the Committee's bulletin that the average number of crime reports in Jeddah alone has reached 300 per day. Theft, rape, abduction and homicide are now fairly commonplace. This means that on average a crime is committed every 5 minutes.

Al Sa'ud's Fear and Panic...

The security preparation for the cleansing of al-Ka'bah recently was intensified. The Mosque was filled with thousands of anti-riot forces to protect the deputy governor of Mecca, Sa'ud Bin-'Abd-Muhsin.

This seriously inconvenienced visitors to the Holy Mosque. People were astonished by the size and level of the security measures for a deputy governor. This also made many speculate about what would have taken place if Fahd or one of his close brothers had taken part in the cleansing operation?

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Al Sa'ud's Scholars...

In a previous issue we mentioned the failure of Al Sa'ud to buy the Scholar's conscience. We highlighted the examples of his Eminence, Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Qu'ud, and Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman al- 'Ajlan, may Allah protect them. However, we were disappointed by other scholars. A few days ago a photo-copy of a check of twenty millions Riyals from King Fahd to a known scholar was widely circulated around the country.

The Arrests Continue...

Arrests continue unabated, as predicted by the Committee. Al Sa'ud seem to have ignored advice given to them by the few sensible people still around them.

In Qasim, a young man, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Muqbil, was arrested with a group of his fellow students. Their houses and cars were searched, and they were taken to an unknown location. They were students at al Imam University, al Qasim branch.

In Ha'il, the young men, Ibrahim al-Hamid and 'Adil al-'Unayzan were arrested. Also arrested was Mr. 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Majid al- Ghandi. His house and car were searched thoroughly and he was taken to Ar-Riyadh prison. Mr. al-Ghandi is 30 years old and the father of two children. He was taken into custody at a time when he was looking after his sick father and waiting for his wife to give birth.

International Pressure...

The authorities last week released Shaykh Yusuf al-Hujaylan, Dr. Sulayman al-'Ubayd, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Zumayn, Dr. Fu'ad al- Dahlawi, and the two brothers Nabil and Rashad, the sons of Muhammad Kamal al-Mudarris and the student Lu'ayy Bin-'Abdallah al-Mas'ari.

The Committee wishes to inform the nation that those releases were due to intense international pressures on the Saudi regime and not to the good-will of Al Sa'ud.

The Committee has learnt that the masters of this slavish, impotent, euneuch-like regime called the Al Sa'ud, gave an ultimatum for fundamental reforms on the level of human rights and political participation, to be put into effect by the end of January.

Otherwise, certain steps will be taken against Al Sa'ud, which will have dire consequences on these leeches and parasites of the Holy Land.

We would also like to confirm that those masters are not taking this stand on behalf of our poor Nation, but because of their fear of public anger which may lead to total chaos, which in turn may have disastrous effect on their interests in the region.

Electricity Companies Learn New Tricks...

A new trick was put into practice in some of the Kingdom's areas, this week, by some of the electricity companies to collect more money from the public. They launched a campaign of disconnecting electricity supplies with no previous warning and then collecting 50 riyals for re-connection.

The Price of Success...

Ahmad Sa'id al-Ghandi owns a very successful chain of restaurants, but as usual, success in "Saudi" Arabia is a clear impossibility, as Al Sa'ud long for such success themselves. Mr. al-Ghandi is now under intense pressure from a certain member of the royal family to give up his ownership of the chain.

Our advice to the public is not to become too successful just in case they attract the tremendous and covetous attention of Al Sa'ud.

Al-Imam University and Security Failure...

Al-Imam University in Riyadh and Qasim was transformed into security barracks with intense surveillance of all students and professors. But this failed to prevent the distribution of the bulletin and cassettes. Such was the skill with which this activity was performed that it seriously embarrassed the intelligence and security personnel.

Strikes and Violence...

Strikes spread to al-Ta'if as the workers of Babel Company for cleaning and maintenance withdrew their labour. The company was working for the psychiatric and other hospitals.

Also, the workers of al-Rushudi Company, who work in King Faysal Hospital, went on strike. They have received no salaries for a full year, which forced the company to sell its assets to pay its workers 6 months salaries. The Company was unable to provide the remainder.

The telephone workers in al-Ta'if were more violent in their strike as they damaged a number of their transport buses and staged a "sit-in" in the buses and refused to go to work. Al-Ta'if authorities jailed the representative of the company as a punishment for the strike.

Yemen

Al-Ahmar Denies Presence of Iranian, Iraqi Troops

MM0602143095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Feb 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Abdallah Hammudah: "Yemeni Ambiguity Hampers Negotiations With Saudi Arabia"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Sanaa, Riyadh, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], and chief of the Hashid tribe, has denied the accusation against Sanaa of working to escalate the situation in the

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negotiations aimed at settling the Saudi-Yemeni border problem with a view to urging the Kingdom to normalize relations with Yemen on the pretext that this "provides the opportunity to encourage the Yemenis to support any border settlement with Saudi Arabia." Diplomatic sources have said that the ambiguity of the Yemeni position maybe "means that there are internal disagreements, and that no party wishes to take responsibility for securing a solution to the border issue that could be used against it by another party on the Yemeni scene."

Asked about the presence of Iranian and Iraqi units in Hadhramaut, Shaykh 'Abdallah said: "Where did they come from? From under the ground or from outer space?" He added: "Anyone who speaks about such a story is dreaming. Yemen does not need units from abroad to protect it. We are willing to help others, those against whom aggression has been committed, or those who need support. We are capable of supporting them."

Asked about the faltering of the "four-man team" and the "legal committee" in their negotiation work, he said: "They assist us, and they have no responsibility. When we ask them to do something, they do it." Commenting on the reports, a source close to Shaykh al-Ahmar said: "It is not reasonable that we should bring Iranian forces into Hadhramaut in order for us to negotiate in Riyadh."

High-ranking southern opposition sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone that "there are Iranian military units and some that are said to be Iraqi" in al-Mukalla, capital of Hadhramaut Governorate. The sources stressed that civilian flights from al-Rayyan airport, near al-Mukalla, have been suspended. And that search campaigns have been organized by military observation points there. The sources cited officials there as saying that "this deployment is aimed at resisting the attempt to separate Hadhramaut, and also to resist any tendency to change the region's map." The sources said that the officials added that "these units contributed to defending unity, and they are now completing their task."

While the sources said that this Iranian presence is probably designed to reinforce the position of a certain wing [in the YRG], whose Higher Committee is headed by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, head of the Yemeni delegation to the Riyadh negotiations, Sanaa sources denied this, saying that the troops in Hadhramaut are Yemeni units on ordinary military missions.

The southern sources said in the context of their accusations that Yemeni authorities are exerting pressure on opposition parties and their newspapers to attack Saudi Arabia, while the Yemeni president continues to make moderate statements through official media services, with a view to using both the opposition's card and the authorities' card in a bid to force Saudi Arabia to normalize relations before the crux of the dispute is resolved. [passage omitted]

Salih Confers With Merchants, Investors

JN0602155495 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the presence of brother Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih yesterday evening met with the brother merchants, businessmen, investors, leaders of economic institutions, and representatives of the chambers of commerce and industry in the Yemeni Republic's governorates.

They discussed economic, financial, and investment issues designed to enhance the national economy and address the various difficulties obstructing both the economic reforms and the promotion of the development march in our country in a way that will consolidate our people's capabilities to confront the challenges facing the homeland in this phase of its history and overcome them through the national spirit of responsibility and the positive and effective contributions by all classes of the people. [passage omitted]

The brother president said: We heard the views of merchants, industrialists, investors, representatives of the economic sector, and the competent government circles. No doubt, we are facing economic difficulties. However, we should cooperate with each other to correctly resolve these difficulties through dialogue and discussions characterized by a responsible objective vision using scientific means through the specialized and qualified sons of the homeland. This can be achieved by everyone realistically and responsibly pinpointing these difficulties and proposing the appropriate solutions.

The brother president added: In light of this, the government should draw up a clear policy, and everyone should comply with this policy, implement it, and remove any defect or obstacles facing it during the development process.

He indicated the roles that should be played by the national capital and private sectors in this field. He also stressed the government's role in addressing the obstacles that prevent the private sector from participating in economic development, from activating the development process, and from enhancing the national economy. This role is represented by halting the wave of soaring prices, refraining from speculation on the currency's exchange rates, and complying with the policy of fixing these rates.

The president indicated the grave consequences of this continued issue on both the community and the state at a time when the homeland is facing large challenges and serious conspiracies concocted by the enemies of unity and democracy. [passage omitted]

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Ministry Blames U.S., Blockade for School Dropouts

JN0602150395 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 25 Jan 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a statistical study by the Ministry of Education, some 396,276 male and female students in the three school stages [as published] have been compelled to give up their studies due to the harsh conditions of the blockade and the inability of their families to provide with them with school requirements due to the continuation of this blockade. The study breaks down the above figure as follows: 62,728 in the elementary school stage and 44,853 in the secondary school stage during the 1990-1991 school year; 100,152 in the elementary school stage and 54,742 in the second school stage during the 1991-1992 school year; and 74,108 in the elementary school stage and 59,693 in the secondary school stage during the 1992-1993 school year.

A ministry source has said that the study shows that 90 percent of the reasons cited for students giving up their studies are the effects of the unjust blockade on Iraq which have led to poor living conditions and an increase in the prices of school supplies and transportation fares. The source held the United States responsible for maintaining the blockade and appealed to Arab and international humanitarian organizations to condemn this crime, which is aimed against the most important human right; namely, the right to education, and to work vigorously to expedite the lifting of the unjust blockade on the Iraqi people, since its continuation is illegal.

Experts: Lifting Sanctions Not Enough for Economy

NC0602140895 Paris AFP in English 1307 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Feb 6 (AFP)—Iraq's oil revenue after the lifting of UN sanctions will not be enough to meet the country's minimum needs, according to a team of specialists on the Iraqi economy.

The Iraqi Consultancy Group (ICG) said oil revenue was expected to generate a net 11.4 billion dollars annually in the first five years, after production costs and based on output of 2.5 million barrels a day (b/d) and a price of 15 dollars a barrel.

But annual payments would amount to at least 12 billion dollars, leaving a minimum deficit of 600 million dollars a year.

The specialists, headed by former Iraqi Industry Minister Adib al-Jadir, published the analysis in the ICG's annual report, quoted Monday [6 February] by the Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey newsletter.

Out of Iraq's income, it estimated four billion dollars would go to Gulf War compensation, three billion to servicing the 60-billion- dollars foreign debt, three billion on food and medicine, and two billion on repairs and reconstruction.

"Hence, the projected oil revenue during the first five years of production ... cannot in any way help to deal with the deteriorating economic conditions as exemplified by the runaway inflation, collapsing currency and huge unemployment," the report said.

"The Iraqi Government is aware of the difficulties ahead, hence the negotiations with a score of foreign companies to raise capacity ... to around 5.5 million b/d by the end of the decade," it added.

The UN trade and oil embargo was imposed after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which was freed by a US-led multinational coalition seven months later.

The ICG said the sanctions had been a failure.

"The sanctions policy alone, without an overall campaign to change the regime in Baghdad, is harmful to the Iraqi people and the State of Iraq as a national and political entity," it said.

"It is not acceptable that this policy of mass punishment of 18 million people should be continued, and that the Iraqis should be forgotten until further notice."

Paper Warns 'Parasites' Against Weakening Economy

JN0602133995 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 26 Jan 95 p 1

[Article by Nuri Najm al-Marsumi: "Two Cases: The People's Steadfastness and the Economic Sabotage"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation we are experiencing in Iraq is completely unique. The blockade imposed on us is the first blockade to be imposed with such cruelty on any people. It places heavy responsibilities on our people and leadership. The manner in which the Iraqi people and their historic leadership are handling their responsibilities is unprecedented. After completing the reconstruction of what the evil aggressors damaged—or rather during that enormous campaign—the overwhelming majority of people were mobilized to counter the effects of the blockade. Thus, a campaign was started at farms, factories, workshops, all state institutions, the socialist sector, and the cooperative and private activities. Most importantly, our beloved leader Saddam Husayn took charge of the state in addition to his other major responsibilities. He has demonstrated an exceptional example in the performance of his daily duties in wartime and under the blockade. All that effort seeks to abort the evil intentions of the forces of darkness wishing to harm our people.

Yes, all efforts are pooled to abort and break the blockade. Iraq is achieving successive successes here and abroad. Yet, despite the legendary steadfastness, production, and construction, there appeared a "handful of

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parasites" who became illegally rich at the expense of the people. They took advantage of the abnormal circumstances that prevailed after 2 August 1990. Thus, they made it a profession to manipulate the people's economic resources in a continued bid to make legendary and astronomical profits. They speculated on the currency, thus weakening our national currency. When they worked in trade, they weakened the citizens' purchasing ability by raising the prices of consumer products according to a "geometric progression." Whenever the prices stabilize, they cause an unexpected rise in the prices of the dollar and commodities. They do not differ much from the criminals who imposed the blockade on our people.

Those tampering with the people's survival are aware of the state's abilities and daring use of the means at its disposal to defend the people and confront harm and danger. We do not want anyone to be engaged in acts which would make him a stranger to his people and nation. Therefore, we urge those with any remaining conscience, among those who have been involved in practices of economic and trade sabotage in dark corners, to reconsider and rectify their behavior before the patience of the people and the leadership runs out. Then, remorse will do them no good.

Baghdad Interested in Restoring Trade With India

BK0302133495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iraq has urged India to start negotiations for agreements of joint ventures to be implemented immediately after the lifting of the sanctions against it. It has also expressed its keenness for restoration of trade and commerce. Iraqi Oil Minister Mr. Safa' Hadi Jawad and Deputy Industry and Minerals Minister Mr. A.R. (Ahmad) expressed these views to a visiting Indian delegation. The Indian delegation led by Mr. John Joseph, a member of National Commission for Minorities, is presently in Baghdad for donating life-saving medicines to Iraq currently facing an acute shortage. The Indian ambassador, Mr. Arif Kamran, was present during the meeting the delegation had with the ministers.

Three Kuwaiti Citizens Return to Kuwait

JN0602185595 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Feb 95

["Text" of press statement issued by the Foreign Ministry on 6 February—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Baghdad, the competent Iraqi authorities returned three female Kuwaiti citizens to Kuwait on 6 February as part of efforts to reunify thousands of Kuwaiti citizens in Iraq, who still expect the Kuwaiti authorities to allow their return to their country.

These Kuwaiti citizens, who have been freely living in Iraq for years, applied to the ICRC mission to secure their return to Kuwait. The mission informed us recently that the Kuwaiti authorities had approved their return. Therefore, the reunification process took place.

[Dated] Baghdad on 6 February, 1995

SAIRI Warns of Drift Toward Normalizing Ties With Baghdad

NC0602143395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has criticized some countries for drifting toward normalizing their relations with Saddam Husayn's regime. It said these countries believe they can achieve their security interests through this internationally isolated regime.

In a statement it issued today, SAIRI warned that the ruling regime in Baghdad is seeking to lift the sanctions with the aim of rebuilding its war machine, returning to the cycle of war, and committing aggression against the Iraqi people and its neighbors.

SAIRI stressed the need to exert pressure on Baghdad's rulers to implement Resolutions 706 and 712, which allow the sale of some oil to meet the Iraqi people's needs.

Opposition Figure Critical of Ties

NC0602170695 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Salah al-Shaykhali, a leading figure in the Iraqi opposition, has stressed that the establishment of any form of relations with the Iraqi regime will help it maintain its arrogance and intransigence and benefit from such relations in its propaganda to reduce the international sanctions imposed on the Baghdad regime.

Al-Shaykhali, the official spokesman of the Unified Iraqi National Congress in London, strongly criticized the attempts to open a dialogue with the Iraqi regime and the attention paid to it which is more than that given to the Iraqi people's issues, problems, and suffering.

Al-Shaykhali's statement came a few days before the visit by a number of British businessmen to Baghdad at a time when the British government is stressing that the international community has no intention of reducing the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

158 Prisoners Reportedly Executed in Jan

NC0602160595 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MU'TAMAR, the weekly organ of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, reports in

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its issue today that the Iraqi regime recently executed 158 prisoners in the Abu Gharib prison in two groups on two consecutive days.

An information source reported this and said 70 persons were executed on the morning of 28 January and the remainder, 88 prisoners, were executed the second day at 1000. The authorities falsely claimed that these were indicted for crimes of theft and murder.

'Head of Saddam's Germ Warfare Project' Profiled

MM0602163495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Alan George: "Head of Saddam's Germ Warfare Project Received Her Education and Experience in British University"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—A former Iraqi expert in the mass-destruction weapons program has revealed that the head of the Iraqi secret biological warfare program received part of her experience at East Anglia University in Norwich. And that the scientific supervisor of her studies still remembers her as a nice lady and one of his best students. The former expert said that this lady—who confirmed to UN weapon inspectors that she is the head of Saddam's Husayn's biological warfare project—obtained her PhD degree from the Biology department at East Anglia University in 1984. Her thesis was entitled "Studies on Tabiotoxin [as transliterated]," a toxin produced by a pathogen that affects the tobacco plant.

Professor John Turner says about the lady's personality: "She was absolutely wonderful. She was an exemplary student, a hard worker, and sincere in her scientific research." In Iraq the doctor supervised a program for producing anthrax, botulism, and the "gangrene" gas. It is worth mentioning that victims of the first two diseases suffer terrible pain before dying. As for the "gangrene" gas, it leads to the explosion of skin tissues.

Dr. Turner, a lecturer in the Biology Department at the university in question, stressed that his student's studies at East Anglia University were not directly associated with microorganisms that affect humans.

He said, "we are a group of people specializing in medicinal plants. We do not operate on human beings or animals." When told about the doctor's role in Saddam's military projects, Dr. Turner said: "I am absolutely astonished. I just cannot imagine that a person like her would get involved in work like that."

The Iraqi doctor joined East Anglia University after she obtained her first degree from an Iraqi university. She obtained her PhD and returned to her country to work as a lecturer at the university. Dr. Turner said that "we have not been in touch since, even though we exchanged Christmas cards for a while."

In the late eighties the lady became head of Saddam Husayn's germ warfare. At the beginning Iraq told UN inspectors that it had no program of this kind. But last year Iraq changed its tune. However, it claimed that the project was small and limited to researches concerning methods of defense against biological attacks. Baghdad claimed that only 10 scientists worked in the project under the supervision and management of the doctor in question, and that the program had achieved only meager progress when the Gulf crisis erupted in 1990-1991. But the UN special committee expresses suspicion over these claims. All employees on the projects—including the doctor in question—were interrogated by UN inspections, and they all tried to evade [questions]. Their statements on the main issues were contradictory.

Swedish diplomat Rolf Ekeus, head of the special committee, said in an interview transmitted by NBC that "the Iraqis have bacteria allocated to war purposes." The committee is expected to send a group of inspectors to Iraq to inspect biological warfare installations.

The Iraqi biological program is situated in three locations: an installation built by the Germans in Salman Bak [as transliterated], south of Baghdad; a research center near al-Iskandariyah, 25 miles southwest of Baghdad; and another installation called "al-Hakim" in the desert, 80 miles west of Baghdad.

The Iraqi doctor is the director of the "al-Hakim" project, which is believed to be a factory for producing a single-cell protein for animal feed. A Western official familiar with the installation said that it cannot make a profit in the economic sense as a food factory. The UN special committee's suspicions were aroused because of the type of equipment present at the three locations. For example, the Salman Bak includes a huge fermentation tank (for growing and mixing microorganisms) and a test room for examining spraying [al-rashsh] technologies, in addition to filling machines which can be used to fill warheads.

The UN committee will work to inspect more than 80 locations, believed to be important as regards biological weapons, beginning with the large installations like the one in Salman Bak through to the small laboratories at universities and hospitals.

The lady in question is not the only person responsible for the weapons programs who received training in Britain. Dr. Ja'far Diya' Ja'far, head of Saddam's atomic bomb project, obtained his Master's degree from Birmingham University and his PhD from Imperial College, London University.

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Rabin Views Syrian Track, 'Terror' From Lebanon

TA0702115195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Feb 95 p A4

[Report by Knesset correspondent Gid'on Alon]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday accused Syria of aiding Palestinian terrorism coming from Lebanon. According to Rabin, terrorism perpetrated by Hizballah and Palestinian organizations in Lebanon will determine the public's attitude to the peace process.

Rabin addressed a stormy session of the Labor Knesset faction, which dealt with the bill of Knesset members [MK's] Avigdor Qahalani, Ya'aqov Shefi, 'Imanu'el Zismann, and Yoram Lass aimed at strengthening the Golan Law. Rabin emphasized that "without solutions with Syria there will be no solution in Lebanon. A situation where there is no solution with Syria harbors additional dangers on which I do not want to elaborate."

The prime minister emphasized that the main problem today is not the Golan Heights and peace with Syria, rather finding solutions to terrorism. Today terrorism is the main problem effecting the government's ability to implement the agreements attained so far. Rabin admitted the negotiations with Syria are difficult for two reasons: One, we are unwilling to accept their demand for a specific declaration on our part (referring to a commitment to full withdrawal from the Golan Heights). Two, Syria is aiding Palestinian terrorism and terrorism launched from Lebanon. "At this point nothing is happening in the negotiations with Syria. The Syrian ambassador just returned to Washington this week, and I still do not know what form the negotiations will take when they are resumed. I do not want Israel to hold up the negotiations," Rabin said.

Rabin sharply criticized MK Qahalani's bill: "We must not place more constraints on the negotiations with Syria. Whoever says there can be peace with the Golan Heights is uttering a blatant lie. We must speak the truth. Whoever says there can be peace while we preserve almost all of the Golan Heights does not know what he is talking about."

MK Qahalani interrupted Rabin by saying: "We agree to a certain compromise."

Rabin: "You are more familiar with the Golan than I am. Whoever speaks of preserving all the Golan or most of it must speak the whole truth and specify all the dangers involved. We cannot escape the truth and we had better not make more constraints." Rabin divulged that Syria reacted harshly to the proposal of holding a referendum on a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, adding: "I felt a need to deal with the issue by means of a referendum rather than by your legislative means. You cannot stop a legislative process once it passes the preliminary reading. We cannot play let's pretend by coming up with a half coffee-half tea compromise. This is an extremely significant issue, and I feel we must reach an unequivocal decision regarding it." [passage omitted]

Rabin on Golan Referendum, Talks With 'Arafat

TA0702062095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Rabin says he will discuss with PLO leader 'Arafat at their meeting on Thursday [9 February] how committed the Palestinians are to fighting terrorism. Though the meeting is still scheduled to take place, tensions are growing again following the attack in the Gaza Strip. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he will raise the issue of whether the Palestinians are determined enough in fighting terrorism when he meets Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on Thursday. Rabin spoke to reporters in the Knesset. He declined to comment on whether there has been a change in the Palestinian approach but there are concerns over the impact the latest terrorist attack in the Gaza self-rule area will have on Thursday's meeting. Police Minister Moshe Shahal is a member of the ministerial negotiating team.

[Shahal] This attack, like others, should be dealt with by our security forces and in coordination with the PA.

[Ze'ev] Does it worsen the atmosphere in advance of the meeting on Thursday with Yasir 'Arafat?

[Shahal] Well it does not contribute and certainly the problem of security is the major issue between us and the PA.

[Ze'ev] We have been getting mixed messages over recent days saying that the Palestinians have stopped certain attacks yet we see something like what happened today.

[Shahal] Although in the last month there were some signs of taking seriously the problem by the PA, preventing some terror acts which were initiated by the Jihad and the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], still it is not enough.

[Ze'ev] On a related issue, Prime Minister Rabin says his pledge to hold a referendum applies only to the Golan Heights, and that no other issue of territorial compromise will be brought to such a vote. The prime minister is quoted by a Labor Party official as speaking during a Labor caucus meeting. [end recording]

Rabin Says PA Can Do More Against 'Terror'

TA0602193895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Feb 95

[Nitzan Hen video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today's murderous attack near Nahal 'Oz was carried out on territory that falls

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under the full control of the Palestinian Police. The gunfire attack wrecked the Yahav security company car, which was escorting two fuel tankers to the al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in the southern Gaza Strip.

Close to 0900 this morning, the two tankers and the security car reached the Nahal 'Oz roadblock. After the convoy crossed the Israeli roadblock, it was joined by a Palestinian police jeep, which drove at the front. Several hundred meters after the Nahal 'Oz roadblock, a terrorist vehicle lay in ambush near the orchard. The terrorists waited for the Palestinian jeep and the two tankers to drive by and then sprayed the security car, which closed the convoy, with gunfire. Forty-six bullets hit the car. Bullets and shell cases shot by the security guards before they were hit were found on the front seat and in a pool of blood. [passage omitted]

One of the guards, a new immigrant who lives in Ashqelon, was killed, and another guard was taken by helicopter to Soroka Hospital with chest and abdomen wounds.

Acting through the joint bureau, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] closed off the area, while the Palestinian police collected evidence and searched for the terrorists. [passage omitted]

The IDF takes a grave view of this morning's murderous attack, which was perpetrated in an area under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Police. An officer who serves in the Strip told us that the possibility of prohibiting Israelis entry into the autonomy is being considered. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian police should do a bit more, the prime minister and defense minister said as he emerged from a Labor faction meeting this afternoon.

[Begin Rabin recording] In my opinion, the Palestinian Authority [PA] can do more against terror. True, even we are incapable of providing foolproof security in areas under our jurisdiction. Terror existed in the past, as well. Some two weeks ago, an Israeli woman was murdered as she was driving from Alon More, on territory controlled by us and on which we alone are in charge of combating terror. The problems lies in the extent of the effort and determination invested by the PA in the war on terror. I plan to discuss this, as well as other issues, with the PLO chairman on Thursday. [end recording]

Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau, Likud bureau chairman, has issued a statement saying that the Nahal 'Oz murder is 'Arafat's true answer to the ridiculous show put on at the Cairo summit. The Likud calls on the government to abandon the separation slogan and to discuss specific steps toward combating terror.

Peres Views War on 'Terror,' Public's Support for Talks

TA0602135495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Feb 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Arriving in the United States yesterday, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the further the peace process progresses, the stronger the war against it will be, adding that terror has escalated because of the progress made in the peace process. At the same time, Peres said, even before the peace process started Israel was the victim of terror attacks, which originated in Lebanon, as well as other places.

Peres said Israel does not expect Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to be responsible for security in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem or to totally prevent all acts of terror but rather to arrest those suspected of perpetrating terror attacks, put them on trial, and act with greater determination against terrorism.

He said suicide attacks are a new tactic and dealing with it will take time. The closure on the territories is a temporary measure, he said. Speaking at a news conference in Washington, Peres suggested that the construction of industrial parks inside the Gaza Strip and along the Green Line in the West Bank could be a solution to the closure. In this way, work will be transferred to the territories instead of transferring workers to Israel.

The foreign minister rejected the claim that public opinion polls indicate a decline in support for the peace process. He said polls make little impression on him because when he was opposition leader, the polls gave him a significant advantage over the Likud, but he actually won the elections by a very slim majority. "Let us not forget our direction and aims and not get dizzy or disappointed on the basis of polls."

He attacked those elements who are lobbying in the United States against the deployment of U.S. soldiers on the Golan Heights in the framework of a peace agreement with Syria. "The idea of getting American mothers worried and enlisting their support in the campaign against stationing U.S. troops on the Golan is unfair and takes advantage of their feelings because, after all, no peace agreement or security arrangements have been made with Syria yet," he said.

The foreign minister said no one can expect full understanding between neighbors; therefore, there is no expectation of total understanding between Israel and Egypt. He noted that the summit meeting held last week in Egypt clearly indicates that Cairo supports the peace process. [passage omitted]

Peres, Netanyahu, Sha'th on 'Terror,' Peace Talks

TA0602071696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Syrian Ambassador to Washington Walid al-Mu'allim returned to his post yesterday after a month-long absence. This week he will resume his contacts with the U.S. peace team and may confer with Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich.

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Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated in Washington last night that a breakthrough with Syria does not appear imminent. Peres, Likud Leader Binyamin Netanyahu, and Nabil Sha'th appeared before a convention of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council in Washington. Arye Golan reports:

[Begin recording] [Golan] Foreign Minister Peres was given a standing ovation. He referred to the peace process as the war for peace which must be pursued until victory, until peace is attained.

In interviews with the U.S. media, Peres was asked about the chances of peace with Syria in view of the continued Damascus-based activities of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the founder of Islamic Jihad. Despite Syrian Ambassador al-Mu'allim's return to Washington after four weeks, Peres still sounded pessimistic. He said al-Asad is holding a tough position and keeps stalling, which is disappointing.

We had expected much more after all the signals we sent him. We voiced our willingness to effect a withdrawal on the Golan, we did not demand sovereignty over the Golan Heights, but Hafiz al-Asad has not yet given any sign that his intentions are genuine. The Syrian president has divorced war, Peres told the convention, but has not yet married peace. Al-Asad is now a strategic bachelor, the foreign minister asserted.

[Peres, in English] President al-Asad has divorced war, but he didn't marry peace. For the time being he is a strategic bachelor looking for a better opportunity.

[Golan] Likud Leader Binyamin Netanyahu, whose speech closed the evening, was very assertive. After reading in THE WASHINGTON POST the interview held in Fathi al-Shaqaqi's office in Damascus in which he boasted that his organization had sent the two suicide bombers to the Bet Lid junction, Netanyahu said: Hafiz al-Asad harbors the terror organizations in Damascus and manipulates Hizballah in south Lebanon. Does anybody still believe that we must give the Golan Heights to this man?

[Netanyahu, in English] When we see that al-Asad is harboring a dozen terrorist groups in Damascus, when he is clearly manipulating the Hizballah terrorists in south Lebanon, it is particularly appropriate to say on a day like this: Does anyone still really believe that we should give this man, Hafiz al-Asad, the Golan Heights?

[Golan] Between Peres and Netanyahu the audience was treated to a satellite broadcast featuring Nabil Sha'th, the Palestinian planning minister. He promised that the Palestinian Authority would henceforth see to the security issue and prevent terror, explained that the PLO remained committed to amending the Palestinian National Covenant, and demanded a freeze in the construction of settlements. Morton Klein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, asked him whether 'Arafat would now plead with his people to stop murdering Israelis. Sha'th evasively replied that 'Arafat's command of English was not all that good and had difficulty expressing himself on the issue. Klein reminded him that on the issue of terror, of all issues, 'Arafat should speak Arabic. [passage omitted]

[Sha'th, in English] He really recognizes he's not a very good public speaker, particularly in English. But, I know his heart and mind are absolutely set in this direction. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 6 February adds that Sha'th "warned the delegates that relocating the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem would destroy the Palestinians' confidence in the U.S. Administration. He nevertheless believes that Jerusalem must not be divided again but rather turned into the capital of Israel and the Palestinian state."]

Weizman Hopes For Stronger Measures Against 'Terror'

TA0602194495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reacting to the terrorist attack near the Nahal 'Oz roadblock, President Weizman said tonight that he hopes the authorities will take more stringent measures than they have to date.

Speaking during a visit with wounded soldiers from the Engineers Corps, the president reiterated that in the course of any process, a pause is sometimes called for in order to reflect on that process. The prime minister and the government will determine this issue, the president said.

He added that he hopes political and military moves will be taken to reduce the public's anxiety and instill in it a sense of security.

IDF Elevates War on 'Terror' to Main Goal

TA0602142495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Feb 95 p 5

[Report by Alex Fishman]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of the Bet Lid terrorist attack, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has made the war on terrorism the main goal of its work plan for the coming year, on a par with its permanent basic tasks, such as defending the country's skies.

It should not be understood from this that a great deal of effort and thought has not been devoted to tackling terrorism up to now, but until the Bet Lid attack, the war against terrorism was one of the missions of ongoing defense.

This is not only a matter of semantics. Adding the concept of fighting terrorism to the IDF's "basic tasks"

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shows the importance the army gives it and its place on the order of priorities from the point of view of allocating resources.

The practical outcome of the change in the definition of terrorism will be felt only in the IDF's next work year. At present, what is involved is thinking up ideas and having them tested by the Ground Forces Command. The change might first generate a different organizational outlook: for example, the establishment of a command to concentrate under one roof all the bodies—inside and outside the IDF—dealing with the war against terrorism. The process will also include the formulation of a doctrine on the war on terrorism and reconsidering the resources allocated to this issue. In the initial stage, planning elements in the Ground Forces Command will review the gaps between what currently exists and what is needed in the field.

One of the areas that will immediately be affected by the redefinition of terrorism as a chief task will be the reserve forces. There may be no choice but to continue calling up the reserves for operational duty at the present level. Until answers are provided to all the questions, the IDF will continue investing resources and manpower under the present setup for fighting terrorism.

Focus of Shin Bet Fight Against 'Terror' Detailed

TA0602161695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Feb 95 p 5

[Report by Alex Fishman]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Shin Bet's main mission since 1967 has been the war on terror. It has been better defined both organizationally and in terms of resources since the outbreak of the intifadah. That is why the Bet Lid attack did not necessitate a significant change in the Shin Bet's order of priorities in the fields of early warning and deterrence.

Nevertheless, since the Bet Lid massacre, the Shin Bet has been focusing more on three main areas. The first is the study and analysis of the traits of a suicide bomber and the compilation of a profile of such a person, in order to detect potential suicide bombers among sympathizers of the fundamentalist movements. Since the Bet Lid attack, this has meant transferring professional manpower to that field and increasing the resources of the units dealing with that specific threat.

The second area is related to ties with the Palestinian security services. Since Bet Lid, the pressure on the Palestinian security services to make greater efforts to thwart terrorist activity has increased. In the past two weeks, the Palestinians have increased their activity in this area and, so far, have foiled three or four attacks. That is not much, but it is more than before.

The third issue the Shin Bet is focused on since Bet Lid is separation. From deliberations in the separation committee, headed by Minister Shahal, it appears as though old ideas which the Shin Bet did not manage to implement until the Bet Lid attack are being revived.

In principle, since the Bet Lid attack, almost any demand the Shin Bet raises with regard to the war on terror, whether it involve manpower, resources, or procedures, is being more readily accepted.

'Terrorists' Reportedly Preparing Car Bombs in Strip

TA0602154795 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 6 Feb 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There are early warnings about car bombs in the Gaza Strip. Israel's security services have well-founded information about car bombs being prepared in Gaza and Khan Yunus with the intention of infiltrating them into the Green Line in the very near future, HATZOFE has learned.

The defense establishment's information shows that the cars were prepared at Islamic Rejectionist Front bases in Gaza and Khan Yunus. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has received orders to tighten as much as possible inspections at Gaza Strip crossings into Israel on the basis of intelligence information showing that terrorists intend to blow the car bombs up only within the Green Line and not inside the Gaza Strip.

Nevertheless, defense sources doubt whether the infiltration of car bombs from the Gaza Strip can be prevented completely. [passage omitted]

Peres Meets With UN Officials, Comments on U.S. Tour

TA0602173995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met with members of the UN Security Council at the UN center in New York this afternoon and briefed them on the quadripartite Cairo summit held last week.

In an interview with our correspondent Arye Golan prior to the meeting, Minister Peres said he supports the cabinet decision to ease the closure.

Peres denied reports broadcast on U.S. media this morning that the purpose of his U.S. visit is to prevent a cut in aid to Israel. He said the peace process requires financial assistance, just as a war requires weapons. [passage omitted]

Peres Comments on Meeting

TA0702114195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Feb 95 p 1

[Report by Marilyn Henry]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met with the UN Security Council yesterday to advise members, along with representatives of some Arab states, of the status of the peace process in the region.

After the hour-long meeting, Peres noted that the nature of the confrontation had changed, from a conflict between enemies to a confrontation between two positions—those that support the peace process and those who oppose it.

"The Security Council should be informed" of developments, Peres told reporters. "With the disappearance of ideological differences between West and East, we feel we have a better chance in the United Nations to put forward our position."

When asked about the Israeli public's attitude toward the peace process in light of the most recent terror attack, the foreign minister said, "Our policy is the right one. We got a mandate. We don't have to test our popularity."

Earlier yesterday, Peres and Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordan's envoy to the US, met with 60 American business leaders to gain support for business projects in the region. These include a railroad connecting the Dead and Red seas, and a tourism complex on the Jordanian-Israeli border at the Dead Sea.

On the second day of a five-day visit to the US, Peres used numerous opportunities to stress that the government has called PA [Palestinian Authority] leader Yasir 'Arafat to convince the Israeli public that he is attempting to curb terrorism.

That issue was being taken to the frigid streets of New York last night. A newly formed group, the American Jewish Coalition for a Safe Israel, was scheduled to hold a vigil for the Jews who have died since the signing of the DOP [Declaration of Principles]. In the last week, the group has taken out newspaper ads quoting President 'Ezer Weizman: "This is not a peace process; it's a bloody process."

As the group was planning its event outside the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Peres and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali were due to attend a ceremony inside dedicating the Shim'on Peres Center for the Advancement of Peace at the University of Haifa.

Cabinet Introduces 'Minor Adjustments' to Closure

TA0502115695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The cabinet this morning decided to introduce some minor adjustments to the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which has been in effect since the suicide terrorist attack at Bet Lid. And as we hear from our reporter at the cabinet office, David Ze'ev, the cabinet also endorsed the finance minister's decision to rescind the capital gains tax:

[Ze'ev] In a driving rain outside the Prime Minister's Office, the ministers have just come out and are, despite the rain, speaking to reporters. What we can tell you is that the cabinet ended its discussion on the closure without deciding on whether to ease the restrictions on the Palestinians in any substantial way. However, there are humanitarian moves: teachers, doctors, certain kinds of produce being transferred from the territories into Israel proper.

In addition, the government has expressed its gratification that the Palestinian Authority [PA], it said, did stop a certain number of terrorist attacks from taking place. Nevertheless, in terms of the substantive issues on the closure, no decision was taken. There is the meeting that is anticipated on Thursday between Prime Minister Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the Erez checkpoint, and we are expecting moves over the course of the coming days as to whether measures can be taken to ease the closure order. The issues that are being taken into account will be age—first of all, whether older Palestinians will be able to cross over—and also certain areas will be affected. Don't forget Israel last week differentiated between the West Bank under Israeli security control and the Gaza Strip under Palestinian control, where a lifting of the closure would be dependent upon PA moves to operate against terrorism. Despite the gratification—as we said earlier—about certain attacks that did not take place, that were thwarted by the Palestinians, Israel says it is demanding more. Another consideration to be given to the closure is humanitarian aid, and that we saw in effect already today.

The cabinet also voted today to endorse Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's proposal to abolish the capital gains tax. Sources here at the Prime Minister's Office say—it's not official quite yet—that the vote was overwhelming. They are talking about Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban and Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir voting against the abolition of the tax.

Soldiers Assert New 'Rules of Engagement' Endanger Lives

TA0702074695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources say that the rules of engagement in the Jordan Rift Valley and in Jericho have been modified in accordance with the new situation in the area following the signing of the peace treaty with Jordan. The sources were reacting to complaints made by reserve soldiers that the new rules of engagement were placing their lives at risk.

Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Major General Ilan Biran, the commander of the Central Command, explained to the soldiers that in any case of doubt, they should refrain from firing their weapons. Soldiers should attempt to detain suspects, unless they are fired upon first.

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IDF To Relocate Hebron Brigade in Qiryat Arba'

TA0702110495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Feb 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has worked out several plans for evacuating forces from West Bank cities. These plans will be implemented after an agreement on this issue is achieved between Israel and the Palestinians. The military plans stipulate that during the first stage all the basic training and instruction bases will be removed from the West Bank. As part of the redeployment of brigades in the West Bank, the Central Command proposes removing the Hebron Brigade headquarters to Qiryat Arba', and the Bethlehem Brigade headquarters to a basic training base in the 'Etzyon Bloc.

Qiryat Arba' Mayor Tzvi Katzover told HA'ARETZ that in the framework of the redeployment the IDF will be located in the Ashmoret-Yitzhaq area in Qiryat Arba'. So far, however, the settlers have not given their approval. A senior military source said that the evacuation of the IDF from cities calls for the construction of many buildings near settlements in the Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Janin districts. [passage omitted]

A senior military source yesterday explained there is no intention to build a fence along all of the separation line, because the fence has political significance. According to the plan being worked out, a fence may be constructed in the Qalqilyah area and at other problematic points along the Green Line. In other areas a "separation zone" will be established in which intensive patrols will be carried out and routine security procedures will be established with more IDF forces deployed on the ground. [passage omitted]

Settlers Protest IDF Fence Plan

TA0702113195 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Feb 95 p 4

[Report by Eli Bohadana]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has started fortifying the fence around the northern part of the Gaza Strip. Over the next few months, the IDF plans to set up an electronic fence in this part of the Strip.

Residents of the Israeli settlements in the northern part of the Gaza area—Nisanit, Dugit, and Aley Sinai—have threatened to physically obstruct work there because the IDF proposes erecting the fence to the north of their settlements and not including them within the fence's security perimeter.

Most of the infiltrations into Israel occur from this part of the Gaza Strip. No electronic fence has been built so far on account of political differences. The Palestinians are opposed to the erection of an electronic fence south of Dugit, Aley Sinai, and Nisanit since they claim that the area belongs to them. The Jewish settlers are opposed to building the fence north of their settlements.

Nisim Avino'am, the secretary general of Nisanit said: "We will physically block work on the electronic fence if it is built north of our settlements. We are not fourth-rate citizens and our lives and those of our children are still worth something."

Commenting on this matter, David Sa'adon, the chairman of the Aley Sinai secretariat, said that if the IDF is so eager to build an electronic fence without offending the Palestinians, "they should set up the fence at Netiv Ha'asara and divide the settlement into two, seeing as the Palestinians claim ownership to part of the settlement's land."

Shahal Promises 'Total Separation' Within 6 Months

TA0502194995 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Video report by police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum]

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal today promised that a total separation between Israel and the territories would be enforced within six months of receiving the necessary funds. The police brass held their first meeting on the security ramifications of the separation line today. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports:

[Begin recording] [Nussbaum] The representatives of the Israel Police came to today's session with a detailed plan prepared at police headquarters over the course of the past few months. The other members of the committee: IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Generals 'Arad, Dagan, and Shahor, the prime minister's counterterrorism adviser, and representatives of the Shin Bet and the Foreign Ministry, received an initial briefing on the police plan. The principles of the separation concept will be formulated on the basis of this proposal, and submitted to the prime minister in approximately one month. Police officials recommend stationing approximately 2,000 policemen and border policemen along the designated line. These personnel will be outfitted with sophisticated observation and sensing equipment and will be accompanied by dogs. The police minister will recommend issuing new permits to Arabs from the territories who will receive permission to enter Israel.

[Shahal] The new permits, imprinted with a magnetic strip, will facilitate the identification of their bearers. These permits will be impossible to forge or transfer to someone else.

[Nussbaum] Do you personally feel that the passage of Arab vehicles into Israel should be prevented?

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[Shahal] I definitely think so. The problem posed by these vehicles is very serious. If a vehicle carrying goods has to get through then adequate measures can be taken to ensure that this vehicle is properly supervised and monitored.

[Nussbaum] Officials at the Police Ministry said that separation between the West Bank and Israel can be enforced within six months of the authorization of the required budgets. [end recording]

[A similar report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 5 February reports that "Minister Shahal told our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky that the committee intended to submit its recommendations to the prime minister at the beginning of March 1995."]

Press Examines Outcome of Quadripartite Meeting

Summit 'Triumph of the Peres Concept'

TA0502092895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Feb 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The Summit Aftermath"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Not surprisingly, the Cairo summit has been hailed by its begetter, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, as a great breakthrough. Neither he nor Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin seems worried by the absence of substantive progress in the four-way meeting. The very fact that an Israeli prime minister has met with three Arab leaders simultaneously, they aver, is incontrovertible proof that Israel is a regional player, integrated in the Middle East.

But the summit's consequences belie these optimistic suppositions. Peres's return to the driver's seat in determining the pace of the process means a turnabout in Israel's direction. Before the Cairo summit, it was clear that Rabin, shaken by the growing intensity and mounting toll of Palestinian terrorism, had decided to suspend the process.

True, Rabin rejected President 'Ezer Weizman's call for an official suspension. But he was obviously disturbed by the security services' doubts about Israel's ability to prevent even more terrorist attacks if Israel withdraws from Arab population centers in Judaea and Samaria. As a result, he decided not only to call a halt to the plans for withdrawal, but to suspend the release of terrorist prisoners and the Palestinian elections. Instead, he began talking of "separation," a concept which, for practicality, matches his wish that the Gaza Strip should fall into the sea.

It was at this point that Peres intervened, realizing that the suspension of the process would spell its collapse. Peres believes that without Israeli withdrawal, and with the continued closure making it impossible for Arabs from the territories to work in Israel, Yasir 'Arafat would lose whatever credibility he has left. His supporters would join the "armed struggle," and Israel, digging in, would have to retaliate with ever greater force. It is not the stuff of which peace is made.

That is why the Cairo declaration opens with the commitment of the parties to "moving promptly to conclude the negotiations on the interim agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in all its aspects."

Clearly, Rabin expects 'Arafat to take tougher measures against terrorists before Israel agrees to further withdrawal, even though the Cairo communique included only a general condemnation of "all outbreaks of bloodshed, terror and violence in the region." (The formulation cannot offend even the Islamic Jihad, for in the Arab parlance "terror and violence" refer to Jews planting trees on a desolate hill; the bombing of a city bus is part of the "armed struggle for liberation.")

And it can be safely assumed that 'Arafat promised to try harder to curb the terrorists. (This he has never done. In a rare moment of candor, PLO official Nabil Sha'th admitted what was apparent for a long time: that the arrest—and almost immediate release—of terrorist leaders was only "a show.")

Indeed, by last night the airwaves were swamped with news of Palestinian Police warnings to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] against striking at Israeli targets, of the harsh conditions in which Islamic Jihad leader 'Abdallah al-Shami is being held, and of suicide bombings prevented by the Palestinian Authority.

The government must hope that this time the crackdown is not just "a show," for the degree of its success will determine the immediate fate of the Oslo agreement. A few months of quiet will enable the government to rationalize the army's withdrawal from the Arab towns of Judaea and Samaria even before bypass roads are built. And this in turn will allow Palestinian elections to be held, prisoners to be released, and the "final status" negotiations to begin by next year. What the Cairo summit has made clearer than ever is that there are two perceptions of the Oslo agreement in the government. Rabin still seems to believe that the Israeli evacuation of "Gaza and Jericho first" was intended as an experiment. If 'Arafat proved he could rule, if he showed that the vast majority of Palestinians recognized him as their leader, and if he could eliminate terrorism, or at least curb it, Israel would let him have Judaea and Samaria.

For Peres, forfeiting Gaza and Jericho was but a first step which had to be followed by the next step in the inexorable march to the complete evacuation of the territories. No matter how unsuccessful the implementation of the first stage may be, nor how blatantly the Palestinians violate the agreement's most basic principles, the Declaration of Principles must be pursued to its logical end.

As Peres already admits in private, and as the world community has always expected, this end is the establishment of a Palestinian state with part of Jerusalem as

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its capital. If the Palestinians achieve this goal, Peres believes, true peace will reign. Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the PLO's radical factions will either join the moderate in sharing the peace pie, or they will be suppressed by a PLO whose prestige and strength will be immeasurably enhanced by the establishment of a state. Friendly cooperation between the three neighboring entities—Palestine, Jordan and Israel—will ensue, and a Middle Eastern Benelux will become reality.

That serious leaders can still believe in these dreams of regional utopia seems incredible. But the fact is that the Cairo communique, with its "full speed ahead" message, is a triumph of the Peres concept. As so many times in the past, Peres has proved that Rabin's essentially healthy instincts are no match for his own cunning and diplomatic skills.

Dailies Comment on Achievements of Summit

TA0502125195

[FBIS Editorial Report] All Israeli dailies on 5 February carry commentaries and editorials analyzing the 2 February Cairo summit. Almost all the writers view it as a historic event at which all four parties scored achievements.

The 500-word editorial on page A1 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew, entitled "Foundations for the Continuation of the Effort," states: "At no Erez checkpoint meeting would Yasir 'Arafat have signed a pledge to act against the terror of the radical Islamic and Rejectionist Front organizations. His willingness to take on such a commitment should be credited solely to President Husni Mubarak, who invited the PLO leader to a forum where 'Arafat found himself contending with three leaders on the one point that matters most to Israel: the issue of terrorism."

Analyzing the summit's other achievements, HA'ARETZ notes: "Egypt was acknowledged both by 'Arafat and Rabin as the 'key player in the promotion of peace in the Middle East'; it has regained the standing it lost in Oslo.

"In the field of arms control, Yitzhaq Rabin's success in preventing a formulation that would have forced Israel to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty merits even greater recognition. The Egyptian president settled for a formulation obliging the sides 'to seek ways' to cleanse the region of weapons of mass destruction: nuclear, chemical, and biological. This formulation is acceptable to Israel.

"The Cairo summit averted an intensification of the impasse in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and put them back on the track outlined by the Oslo agreement. It would be premature to state that the summit propelled the process forward, but it laid a foundation on which the two parties will be able to build, if they intend to complete the effort launched in the summer of 1993."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew carries a 1,200-word article by Moti Bassok on page 9, entitled "Immoderate Pressure on Syria," which states: "Last Thursday's Cairo summit was a historic event by every standard." "For Israel, its very participation in the summit in broad daylight and in full view of television cameras in the heart of Cairo was a very important political achievement. After more than 100 years of Zionism, the Arab world has acknowledged that Israel is an integral part of the Middle East. Even Libya, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq now realize that, whether they like the Zionist state or not, Israel is a part of the region."

In response to the "disappointment with the summit's results" among senior Palestinian figures in the territories, Bassok writes: "Their reaction is completely mistaken. The Palestinian participation in the summit has given the Palestinians and 'Arafat international and regional recognition, which will become legal tender in the future. Soon the Palestinians will participate in every 'peace bloc' forum, including the foreign ministers conference in Washington next week.

"The Cairo encounter allowed Rabin to retreat gracefully from the closure and to renew the talks with the Palestinians on the future of the peace process. Without the Cairo meeting, it is unlikely that Rabin would have consented to meet with 'Arafat at the Erez checkpoint in four days.

"The United States stood behind the summit's scenes. The encounter has undoubtedly exerted strong pressure on Syria and on Hafiz al-Asad. Egypt, which was aware of that aspect, actively promoted the summit nevertheless. Thanks to the Cairo summit, Mubarak has regained the role he loves so well—that of the Middle East's Great Mediator between Israel and the Palestinians, Israel and Syria and Lebanon, and, if necessary, also between Israel and the Palestinians on one hand and Jordan on the other. When al-Asad felt he was being swept to the sidelines some time ago, he initiated the 'Alexandria Conference' (with the participation of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria). It would be interesting to hear his reaction this time. Cairo, Jerusalem,, and Amman officials noticed that concurrently with the communique issued by the 'peace bloc summit,' Syria reportedly succumbed to pressure from Washington by consenting to send Ambassador Walid al-Mu'allim back for talks with Itamar Rabinovich."

The HAYOM supplement of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 5 February carries a 100-word editorial on page 3, entitled "In the Shadow of Terror" and signed by Yosef Lapid, who writes: "The quadripartite Cairo encounter has achieved Israel's main objectives: It demonstrated Israel's new standing as an integral part of the Middle East, gave the peace process momentum (or at least a push), and condemned terror.

"The Rabin-'Arafat Erez checkpoint meeting scheduled for this week and the meeting of the four foreign ministers in Washington are supposed to breathe new life into

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the Oslo agreement. Yet all the diplomatic moves are heavily overshadowed by terror, which is liable to disrupt the politicians' efforts at a moment's notice, at any time."

Summit Seen as 'Rabin's Historic Achievement'

TA0502142895 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 5 Feb 95 p 5

[Article by Jacques Neriya: "The Height of the Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As one who has monitored the Arab-Israeli conflict for many years and searched regularly for signs of moderateness in the Arab world's attitude toward Israel and of its readiness to accept Israel's existence as an independent Jewish entity in the Middle East, I have no doubt whatsoever that the Cairo summit represents a turning point, which is bound to be explored by future researchers of this period. The Cairo occasion is Yitzhaq Rabin's historic achievement. There is no more salient affirmation of the changes in the region than the group portrait of the four leaders, who have understood that, for better and for worse, they are destined to live together, in one space, for generations to come. Who could dream, in his wildest fantasies, of the Israeli prime minister conferring with Arab leaders in Cairo? Only the envious can discount this impressive achievement, which belongs entirely to Rabin and Peres.

The quadripartite summit's importance lies in its very existence, but not as a forum for the solution of immediate, acute problems that are bound to be discussed in the appropriate bilateral caucuses. The man who fully understood the summit's uniqueness was Marwan al-Qasim from Jordan, who called on the summit participants to lay aside their tactical differences and to focus on the summit's true objective: the creation of a new atmosphere that will breathe new life into a process which has been dealt such heavy blows lately as to undermine the participants' faith in its vitality and viability.

Had Israeli decisionmakers been more alert to the historic possibilities inherent in the process of conciliation with the Arab world, had they forgotten their feelings of vindictiveness toward 'Arafat for a moment, a similar, or even a more impressive occasion could have taken place at the signing ceremony with Jordan; a lot of acrimony could have been prevented and the course of events might have been different. Yet as the Arab saying goes, the words "if only" has never built a house. No point, therefore, in crying over spilled milk. Instead, we should reexamine ways to stabilize the agreements with the Palestinian Authority, promote the negotiations with Jordan on the peace accord addenda, and above everything else, to cultivate the relationship with Egypt, which played a central and vital role in convening the summit.

'Arafat again acted as the weak party in Cairo. Once, when a draft communique was being reviewed, he noted dramatically that he could not agree to its contents, unless Israel meant "to bury him." That was the reason for the communique's vague, general clauses on the Israeli-Palestinian issue. The Palestinian side presented lengthy demands, and to resolve the tangle, it was decided that a Rabin-'Arafat meeting would be held at the Erez checkpoint the following Thursday. In this respect, the Cairo summit enabled the resumption of the negotiations without forcing Israel to first revoke the steps it had introduced so as to safeguard the safety of its citizens. Rabin and 'Arafat understand that time must not be wasted. Both fully realize that time works against them and that they have to attain, within a reasonable period, a stable relationship which will create a political reality that no future forces will be able to reverse with a single decision.

The Cairo summit was beneficial to Husayn, too. Step by step, he has been emerging from the pan-Arab isolation; moreover, he has become the third side in a triangle on which Israel and the PLO rely. In terms of long-range achievements, the Cairo summit may have laid the foundation for a joint political framework for the three protagonists.

As for Egypt, the summit provided President Mubarak with a unique opportunity to appear as the true patron of the peace process, as al-Sadat's successor. Mubarak was undoubtedly acting with an eye to foreign affairs (mainly the United States), too, but one of his objectives was to allay criticism inside and outside Israel of his meeting with President al-Asad and King Fahd, which was designed to prevent Israel from joining the Arab world before an Israeli-Syrian agreement is achieved. Mubarak placed himself in two camps at the same time, and he is signalling to each of them that he is the axis player, that the game's outcome depends on his determination. The clouds of misunderstanding with Israel have not dispersed yet, particularly those involving the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Nevertheless, both sides realize there will always be issues on which understanding will be unattainable, and that leaders' greatness is gauged by their ability to maintain an ongoing dialogue aimed at achieving understandings on sensitive issues pertaining to their national security.

Beyond all that, beyond the photographs and the smiles, there are still real problems waiting for solutions. Yet the Cairo summit was a cornerstone. Another psychological barrier on the path to reconciliation was shattered, disappearing along with a variety of prejudices associated with the Israeli-Arab conflict. The leaders now bear an unprecedented responsibility to translate symbols into a reality of peace and security. The clearer and firmer their message is, the easier will their task of rounding up support for their actions be—and vice versa.

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Reportage on Israeli Knesset Delegation Visit

King Husayn Addresses Delegation

JN0602202495 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Feb 95

[Speech by King Husayn at a meeting with an Israeli Knesset delegation at al-Hashimiyah Palace in Amman on 5 February—recorded, in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, honored guests: It's a source of great pleasure for me and my brother the crown prince, the prime minister, the speaker of Parliament, president of the Senate, and all my colleagues here to welcome you amongst us this evening.

We have indeed covered a long distance within a very short space of time. But, if this is to be explained, it can only be explained in the fact that I believe on both sides we rose up to the level of our responsibilities, not only towards ourselves but towards our peoples and their future, toward generations to come. We are very happy with what we have achieved, and we are hopeful that we will achieve more in what I regard as a period of consolidation before us where, hopefully, peace between our two countries and peoples will be an example to others in our region as we seek together to provide the future of security, and peace, and mutual respect, and cooperation, and the atmosphere in which generations to come can work together and fulfill their dreams and aspirations and achieve what is their right.

Nothing in the world could equal the feeling that I am sure all of us share, that we will be leaving behind us something worthwhile, something worthy of our efforts and endeavors. I believe that it is so very, very important for us in the times ahead to establish more and more the face-to-face contact, the direct personal contact between us at all levels. And I am sure that we will find, once this is achieved and the more it is achieved, that our objectives, and hopes, and aspirations are one and the same. It will pave the way for our building together the kind of future that is worthy of our peoples.

You're most welcome as honored representatives of the people of the State of Israel here in Jordan this evening. And I hope that we will have the pleasure in the future of welcoming many of you again from time to time. I am very happy that this meeting has taken place, and I looked at the subjects and topics that were discussed. I believe they are fundamental for our joint effort to succeed in the period of consolidation which is ahead of us.

We indeed hope and pray that peace between us is going to be a part of a comprehensive peace in this region, and we will do whatever we can to make it so. None of us—if we look into our hearts, and our souls, and to our beliefs—can deny that what compels us to resolve our problems and work together is far more than what divides us, the children of Abraham and their followers—the followers of the three great monotheistic religions. We as Muslims cannot look at ourselves and deny the facts, the common origins, and that there is much that unites us. Let's hope that we will succeed in all our endeavors, and we will do all we can for a better future for all the generations to come in this region. And maybe this part of the world will once again inspire peoples everywhere in our world.

I thank you very, very much indeed for being with us, and I promise you that we will do all we can to continue forward, counting on you to do the same. And this is yet another opportunity for us to be together at this level, and hopefully, we will see a continuation of contacts at all levels so that any mythical barriers can disappear in time if they do still exist, and people can see the human face of each other as we build together a better future for this region.

Thank you very, very much, and you are most welcome. And let's hope that there will come a time soon when this entire region will be a region of peace, harmony, cooperation, where human beings will live in peace and in security, and where the battle between the forces of peace will be won over those of darkness who would wish us to be denied this opportunity and chance to fulfill our duties.

Al-Salam [preceding word in Arabic, meaning peace] is one of the names of God. Let him bless our efforts and give us success in all our endeavors. Thank you very much indeed, and God bless you. Peace, and God's blessings be upon you.

Head of Delegation Thanks King

JN0602214495 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Feb 95

[Speech by Shevah Weiss, head of the Israeli Knesset delegation visiting Jordan, at a meeting with King Husayn in al-Hashimiyah palace in Amman on 5 February—recorded, in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Our distinguished hosts—His Majesty King Husayn, and His Royal Highness Prince Hasan, Mr. Prime Minister, the president of the Jordanian Senate, the speaker of the Jordanian Parliament, members of the Jordanian Government; My colleagues from Israel—Deputy Speaker, my colleagues chairmen of our committees in our parliament, chairmen of the parliamentary branches—honorable guests:

I have with me a prepared speech and address, but after the small talks from heart to heart around this table, with your permission Your Majesty, I will change my speech and I will express my feelings after this evening. First of all, thank you so much for this invitation. We are here as representatives of the Israeli democracy. We are here as delegates of all parties and all parts of our nation. We are here as representatives of all our ethnic groups: Jews, Arabs, Druze.

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We are here because we are obligated to the continuance of this historic important peace process. The peace treaty with Jordan was supported by the majority of Israeli citizens, by the majority of the Israeli population, and the historic majority of our parliamentary groups and members of our parliament.

Around this table, among the delegates of the Israeli parliament, I myself and my colleague Dov Shilanski—the former speaker, and today the deputy speaker, and maybe in future the next speaker, who knows—we spent the last week on a very sad trip in Poland, in the concentration camps, as holocaust survivors. And I would like to say that in small talks between colleagues in the parliament, between professors and students in our universities, we mentioned the historic facts that the relations between Jews and Arabs during the very long common history of our two nations have never been so cool and sad and tragic as the history between the Jews and the European Christian nations in Europe. And because of that I am sure we have the power, and that we have the obligation to change the historic...[pauses] that the history in the last five generations, we are obligated to change it, and we have a window for historic opportunities to do it after achieving this peace with your nation, your country.

I would like to express our admiration to you and your family courage, to your wisdom, to your very effective and fruitful process of decisionmaking. And I hope that this peace treaty between our two states will become the example for all states in this region.

Your Majesty: I would like to renew the invitation of the President of the State of Israel Ezer Weizman and the Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to you, and your family, and your government to come to Israel, to visit us with your delegation as soon as possible. The way from Amman to Jerusalem is not so far. And with your permission, I would like to add one sentence in your language, with a very fruitful assistance of my colleague 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawishah: Kul 'Am Wa Antum Bikhayr [preceding sentence in Arabic, meaning many happy returns].

Delegation Ends Visit, Departs

JN0602192195 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Israeli Knesset delegation, headed by Professor Shevah Weiss, left for Israel late last night at the end of a visit to Jordan during which it met with His Majesty King Husayn at al-Hashimiyah Palace. [passage omitted]

Visit Shows 'Commitment' to Peace Treaty

JN0702102295 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Feb 95 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Husayn Emphasizes Comprehensive Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is clear that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty is beginning to witness the firm steps of its practical implementation. This constitutes one of the important links in achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region, especially since Jordan is extremly eager to see progress on the other peace tracks and to achieve a settlement on the Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian tracks.

It is also clear that peace between Jordan and Israel can represent a model to be followed by the other tracks.

As His Majesty King Husayn said upon receiving a visiting delegation from the Israeli Knesset, we hope that peace between Jordan and Israel will be an example to others. When we say that peace between Jordan and Israel can be an example to others, this means that steps to implement the Jordanian-Israeli treaty should continue firmly and with tangible credibility. This also means that the two parties should be committed to implementing the contents of this treaty with faith, care, and credibility. As His Majesty King Husayn said, this requires intensifying direct personal contacts at all levels as well as an eagerness to remove all obstacles in the path of peace between the two sides.

Here, we must emphasize that a comprehensive peace cannot be achieved without recognizing the Palestinian people's national rights, ending their suffering, releasing all prisoners, and stopping the settlement expansion campaign at the expense of occupied Palestinian territories. Moreover, a comprehensive peace will not be achieved without a full withdrawal from the Syrian Golan and southern Lebanon in accordance with just peace treaties.

The visit by the Israeli Knesset delegation to Jordan is an important sign of Jordan and Israel's commitment to the stipulations of the peace treaty between the two sides. It is also an important sign of a mutual desire to establish good neighborly relations between the two sides to maintain security and stability in the region.

Negotiator: Security Arrangements With Israel Initiated

JN0602211195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Hani al-Mulqi, head of the Jordanian side to the Jordanian-Israeli Follow-Up Committee, has announced that Israel will complete its full withdrawal from Jordanian territories on Thursday [9 February].

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency at the end of a meeting held by the Jordanian-Israeli Follow-Up Committee in Dayr 'Alla today to follow up on the implementation of the articles of the treaty signed between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel, al-Mulqi added that the two sides examined the efforts made to implement the provisions

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enshrined in the Jordanian- Israeli peace treaty, noting that withdrawal began from the southern sector northwards last week.

Dr. al-Mulqi went on to say: The two sides reviewed the work done last week by the tourism, transport, economic, and border and security committees. He indicated that the tourism agreement and the agreement to exchange letters and parcels will be initialed on Thursday.

Al-Mulqi said that security arrangements and the arrangements pertaining to border crossings between the two countries have also been initialed. They will be signed on Thursday. He indicated that the dates for meetings by transport, environment, cultural, and scientific committees have been set. They are slated to be held in the next two weeks.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by the secretaries general of the ministries of industry and trade, agriculture, planning, and water and irrigation; Dr. Ibrahim Badran, overall coordinator of the negotiations; Major General Tahsin Shurdum, deputy chief of staff for intelligence affairs; Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, appointed Jordanian ambassador to the State of Israel; and Dr. Basim 'Awadallah, a cabinet official.

Draft Jordanian-Israeli Agricultural Accord Reported

JN0602135295 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Feb 95 pp 1, 19

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem—The Jordanian and Israeli sides have prepared a joint draft agricultural agreement based on Article 22 of the peace treaty, which deals with agricultural cooperation.

The draft agreement, which contains five articles, stipulates the following:

Article 1:

Both sides will support a cooperation program, which covers a wide range of agricultural activities and other related issues, in their capacity as equal partners with joint interests. The cooperation program incorporates various fields, the most important of which are the production and protection of agricultural crops, the production of poultry, animal hygiene, agricultural research, and the joint expansion of techno-biological programs.

Moreover, the program includes cooperation in the field of agricultural marketing and trade. This includes issuing agricultural certificates, setting agricultural standards, quality control, exchanging marketing information, trade affairs, and other issues dealing with reinforcing agricultural marketing.

The program also deals with cooperation on joint projects that deal with combating desertification, managing water reservoirs, developing pastures, forests, and nature and wildlife reserves, and treating waste water.

Article 2:

Scientific and technological cooperation will be implemented through many means such as exchanging information and data on various aspects of agricultural development, exchanging scientists and specialists, as well as exchanging joint training programs, organizing workshops, scientific research seminars, and conferences.

Article 3:

Detailed protocols on cooperation in specific fields will be drawn up and modernized. These protocols include the fields of veterinary services, the protection of plants, and technological and biological marketing. However, they will not be confined to these fields. Once these protocols are approved, they will become part of this agricultural agreement.

Article 4:

The ministries of agriculture in both countries will be the agencies in charge of implementing this agreement.

Article 5:

This agreement will be effective as of the date of exchanging the memorandums that deal with this issue or when the agreement is ratified by the competent authorities in both countries. This agreement will remain in effect for two years. After that it will be automatically renewed for consecutive one-year periods. This is unless either of the two parties presents a written notice no less than three months before the end of the specified period of the agreement, expressing a desire to cancel or amend this agreement.

King Said To Support Halevi as Israeli Envoy

TA0602173895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] King Husayn and his brother, Hasan, have asked Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to appoint Efrayim Halevi Israeli ambassador to Jordan, our correspondent Hayim Hecht learned yesterday in Amman from a senior Jordanian source.

Our correspondent notes that the appointment of an ambassador to Amman will be decided after Shim'on Peres returns from the United States in a few days.

General Views Israeli Withdrawal, Border Security Issues

JN0302212795 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1820 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Interview with Major General Tahsin Shurdhum, assistant chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and head of the

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Security and Borders Committee, by Hani al-Badri; from the "60 Minutes" program—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Badri] Sir, there are some maps in front of us. The citizens can see with us maps of the territories, from part of which the Israelis have withdrawn. Let us talk, if you will, about these territories, measures of Israeli withdrawal, and the return of Jordanian sovereignty to these territories.

[Shurdhum] As you know, the withdrawal was carried out in two stages according to the agreement with the Israeli side. The first stage, which was implemented two days ago, was arranged in the appropriate manner. The reconnaissance units entered from the southern military zone to receive their security duties along the borders. Israeli and Jordanian officers saluted each other and shook hands at the barbed wires. These borders will be borders of peace; such military arrangements are recognized by all neighboring countries. This first stage incorporates about 170 km, starting from the Elat-al-'Aqabah crossing point to approximately the area of al-Rishah.

The second stage, which will be implemented on 9 February, stretches from north of al-Rishah to south of the Dead Sea and includes al-Baqurah in the north, at the Jordan River-al-Yarmuk River triangle, where these two rivers meet. The operation will be carried out on 9 February and the same military measures will be taken. The difference between the two areas is that the southern area is bigger in size and in its geographical dimension. The patrols of the 12th Royal Mechanized Division will enter the northern area across a bridge that was built by the Royal Engineering Corps. The size of this area is about 830 dunums. The commander of the 12th Royal Mechanized Division will position his military units to perform their security duties in this area.

[Al-Badri] Sir, I would like to refer to what was said about measures regarding Israeli farmers in two farms in al-Baqurah and in another area who are continuing their work on these farms. What measures will you take in this regard?

[Shrudhum] In fact, a great number of people in the street have been asking about what these measures will be. We are aware of this. It seems the reason behind these inquiries is that some people do not follow events, or what is published in the press, or what is broadcast by Jordan Television, and what is said by all officials on all occasions. Actually, I would like to clarify this fact. Jordan has total sovereignty over the al-Ghamr area in the south. Israeli farmers only have the right to use these territories. This territory is not leased to Israel whatsoever.

[Al-Badri] This explains the issue of leasing territories, of which Jordan was accused, once again.

[Shurdhum] That is right. A great number of people ask: Is this territory leased? This territory is not leased. Jordan exercises full sovereignty over it. The territories of the homeland are not subject to lease. The Israeli farmer enters this land, and according to the peace treaty, he only has the right to use this land. A lease is a contract between two persons and there is nothing of this sort in this case whatsoever.

There are special arrangements in the south which, according to the peace treaty, enable and give the Israeli citizen the right to enter and use this land and go back. We set security arrangements for him; how he enters and who is authorized to enter. He will be carrying an entry certificate or document, like any identification card, by which he can enter in order to use the territory and go back.

There are some other measures, such as carrying documents that deal with what is his right and what is not on these territories. He has to perform his duties on a daily basis. Whatever applies to the Jordanian farmer applies to the Israeli citizen if he had to enter and work on the farms at night. This includes Jordan's full sovereignty, rights, and laws.

The same measures will be taken in the other location at al-Baqurah. However, the difference between the two territories is that there is an Israeli farmer who owns a peace of land in al- Baqurah. There are three main farms owned by an Israeli farmer, as proven by old documents. He will undergo the same measures to enter and leave these locations. Jordan exercises full sovereignty over these territories. Members of the committees who set up the regulations for the entrance of these farmers to use this land, include representatives from the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Finance and the Customs Department, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Armed Forces. I supervise these committees.

Measures are being taken. God willing, they will continue in a routine manner after the withdrawal so that the process will be easy and organized. [passage omitted]

Al-Kabariti Returns From Cairo Tripartite Meeting

JN0602192795 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti returned to Amman after leading the Jordanian delegation to the tripartite Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian meeting in Cairo. The foreign minister described the meeting as successful.

In a statement to our correspondent for political affairs, Kassab Samawi, he added that the upcoming meeting of the higher Jordanian-Egyptian committee will be held on 20 and 21 March under the co-chairmanship of the two countries' prime ministers.

[Begin recording] [Samawi] Mr. Minister: How did the work of the tripartite meeting proceed, and what were the bases the meeting adopted to handle the return of the displaced?

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[Al-Kabariti] The meeting was successful and we have worked out a Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian joint concept of the right of the displaced to return. We will convey this joint concept to the four-way meeting that will be held in Amman on 26 February. We also agreed on certain bases and criteria through technical committees and experts, who met a while ago in Cairo. The Jordanian side stressed the need for the international community to take measurers to do justice to the displaced. The process, in fact, needs time. The Jordanian side, as you know, is committed to a recommendation from the House of Representatives that the issue of the displaced and refugees should be followed up persistently and be resolved, God willing. [end recording]

Al-Kabariti: Refugees, Displaced Top Jordanian Priority

JN0402172395 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that the problem of refugees and displaced persons has a top priority in Jordanian demands, and is considered a basis for a just solution.

He added, based on the recommendation by the lower house of parliament when approving the peace treaty with Israel, Jordan will work toward solving this question with all concerned parties.

Meanwhile, Mr. al-Kabariti will lead the Jordanian delegation to the meetings on refugees between his Egyptian and Palestinian counterparts due to start in Cairo tonight. The talks are in advance of negotiations with Israel on the refugees question.

King Husayn Phones Egypt's Mubarak

JN0602212295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn yesterday evening phoned Egyptian President Muhammad Husni within the framework of coordination and consultations between his majesty and His Excellency President Mubarak on various Arab and regional issues of mutual interest.

King Receives Iraqi Minister, Saddam 'Message'

JN0502191495 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn received Dr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghafur, Iraqi minister of higher education and scientific research.

The guest minister conveyed to his majesty a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on relations between the two fraternal countries. The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

'Arrest Campaign' Reportedly Launched Against Islamists

JN0702120095 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 8 Feb 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BILAD has learned that the security agencies have launched a fresh arrest campaign among the ranks of the Islamists over the past few days in the Hittin Camp and al- Rusayfah and al-Zarqa'. It has been learned that Shaykh 'Izz-al-Din 'Abd-al-Latif, a leader of the Islamic Action Front in al-Rusayfah, and one of his relatives are among those arrested.

The reasons and circumstances of the arrests are not known. It is worth noting that another arrest campaign was conducted last week in al-Baq'ah area.

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U.S. Request To Condemn Netanya Blast Rejected

NC0502103395 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 26 Jan 95 p 1

["Daily Events" column by "Zayyan": "God Has Protected Us"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The straw that broke the camel's back would be for Washington to ask Lebanon to officially send a cable of condolences to Israel over the victims of the Netanya bombing.

Thus, with creative diplomacy, the U.S. Administration would have done its duty toward the region and the peace negotiations. It would have paid off its loan to the Almighty for the new world order He has given it.

The rest of the details are left up to Israel.

The rest is neither small nor insignificant. The Lebanese have known and gotten used to it. They have been roasting on its fire for the past quarter of a century and more.

Israel practices the harshest and ugliest crimes and forms of terrorism against the Lebanese, while Lebanon is the one that is accused of muddying the water for the fox. Lebanon is the one that has to apologize and send a cable condemning the terrorism Israel is being subjected to.

God has protected us this time around and stopped the superpower from doing such a thing to us.

The United States found it sufficient to ask us to condemn the act.

Condemn the crime, it told us. Condemn the terrorist acts that the country that is a prime example of a peace-loving country is being subjected to, the helpless state, the state whose dinner is stolen by a fly. Condemn, we are told, the oppression and injustice Israel is suffering.

We thank the United States for remembering us from time to time, when Israeli security concerns prompt it to take action in the direction of the usurping and oppressive powers, the list of which is topped by Lebanon.

We have become used to such behavior—and habit is second nature to some—for some time now, since the Israeli occupation. Doesn't the U.S. capital see anything else in the region other than the spoiled child whose interests it looks after, whose side it always takes, and whom it supports whether it has been unjust or oppressive!

We have become used to Israel's acts of aggression against us; we are used to its shelling, raids, kidnappings, belligerence, thefts, crime, and terrorism. After that, the United States hastens to condemn the victim and accuse it of making the water murky and destroying good intentions, as well as patting the criminal on the back.

But to this extent? To the extent where it asks the victim to condemn an act and offer condolences?

Actually, we are confused about how to behave with you, our dear United States of America.

Lebanon did not go to war, but it paid the highest bill in times of war. It is still paying those bills and still has many bills and payments to settle yet.

Lebanon did not go to the peace talks either, but it is bearing the full burden of that peace for everybody else's sake.

And the dead continue to die.

The conception takes place in Oslo and the birth is in the western al-Biqa', or the conception takes place in Netanya and the delivery is in the South.

Despite all this, despite all the conceptions, deliveries, and annihilation processes, we have never once heard Washington condemn the Israeli terrorism or ask its allies to send us a cable of condolences.

Basically, we are damned if we do and damned if we don't.

Buwayz: U.S. Human Rights Report 'Exaggerated'

MM0602093695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Feb 95 p2

[Unattributed report: "Buwayz: U.S. Report on Human Rights Is Exaggerated and Incompatible With Reality"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—At a press conference held yesterday, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz spoke about Lebanon "with all its branches and origins" receiving an Israeli threat. He said: "There are signals or indirect messages received by Lebanese organs from Israel which seems to be preparing some kind of reply."

Commenting on the U.S. State Department's report on Lebanon's violation of human rights, he said that it was "exaggerated and incompatible with reality." He said that the Syrian presence in Lebanon is "a Lebanese-Syrian matter discussed as such." He restated the aims of the Lebanese advisory mission which went to Washington to assist Ambassador Riyad Tabbarah. [passage omitted]

He said that "Lebanon is one of the states where the level of security is very acceptable, and if there is any danger to American nationals, such dangers exist in most states of the world. I do not believe that any state can make a commitment or pledge that no problem would occur. The difference now is that there are security organs in Lebanon now capable of dealing with any aggression, and there is an efficient judiciary system and firm punishment." [passage omitted]

On the climate of the U.S.-Lebanese security talks in Washington, Buwayz said that "the delegation will not

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interfere in matters related to the south, the resistance, or the peace negotiations. Its aim is to explain some of the achievements made in recent years. If the United States decides that these achievements could help it reconsider some of the decisions it had made—and they were unjustifiable as far as the security situation was concerned and were not in the interest of U.S.-Lebanese political and economic relations—then we would welcome that, if it wishes to take that into consideration, but if not, then we would consider that we did our duty.... The ball is now in the U.S. court." He ruled out the possibility that it was a matter of political pressure on Lebanon. He spoke of U.S. goodwill.

He added: "If the aim of the measures is economic then Lebanon can deal with that in a sound way that would safeguard its interests. The loser from that would above all be the interests of U.S. companies." [passage omitted]

On the claims that an Israeli threat was handed to the Lebanese Army, he replied: "We have indeed been informed of signals or indirect messages received by Lebanese organs from Israel. I have to say here that they are just pretexts. The 'South Lebanese Army' uses the pretext that the Lebanese Army searches travelers, which is natural, especially as it [the Lebanese Army] has confirmation of intentions to undermine the internal security situation in Lebanon. In reaction to this, the South Lebanese Army and Israel seem to be preparing an answer to these measures. Lebanon has a right to look after its own security, especially since there has been more than one sign in past months confirming aggressive intentions to torpedo internal stability." [passage omitted]

More on Reported Israeli 'Ultimatum' Over Border Checks

MM0302161495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Feb 95 pp1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and a Lebanese Army Command source have confirmed that Lebanon had received an ultimatum and a threat from Israel because of the Army's searching of travelers from the occupied border strip in an attempt to uncover collaborators. [passage omitted]

An Army Command source has revealed that Israel sent an ultimatum to the Lebanese Army implicitly warning against what it called "continued interception of people on the charge of dealing with it [Israel], and continued pursuit and detention of these people, in addition to the surveillance and searches the Lebanese Army carries out at checkpoints, against people going to Jazzin and the security belt townships."

The source said that "Israel sent its ultimatum through the UNIFIL command in the south. The Army refused to receive the ultimatum, so Israel sent it again with a vehicle. Israeli intelligence asked the owner of the vehicle to deliver it, but again the Army units refused to receive it until they finally received it through the driver of a taxi which travels between the security belt and the liberated areas."

AL-HAYAH learned that, in its ultimatum, Israel spoke of "the campaigns of detention, harrassment, and searching of people who deal with it as well as their relatives in the liberated areas."

Israel also spoke of the "pursuit of some people for interrogation on their ties with Israel." It held the Lebanese Government "responsible for the searches and harrassment" and said that "these actions impede the peace process and do not prepare the Lebanese mentally to accept peace."

The Lebanese Army Command source told AL-HAYAH that "Israel only sent the ultimatum to the Lebanese Government after the security organs were able to detain a number of people on suspicion of direct links with the bombing and information-gathering networks recently uncovered in Beirut's southern Suburb."

The source confirmed that "some of the detainees openly admitted involvement in the bombing and information-gathering networks. As a result, the security organs concerned were able to identify most of the members of these networks and to break up these networks, and also to identify those who supervised them, some of whom are located abroad and some in the security belt."

The Army Command source said that Israel "is trying to put pressure on the Lebanese Government to stop the surveillance and the current interrogation of the detainees but its ultimatums and threats will never succeed in forcing the security organs to stop taking preventive steps and measures to immunize the internal front and take a stand against those who, at Israel's request, try to threaten security and stability." [passage omitted]

SLA Radio Confirms Killing of Security Officer

NC0402083295 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to our military correspondent, as a patrol of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] was raking the al-'Ayshiysah-al-Rayhan area yesterday, quantities of weapons and ammunition, including RPG's, were discovered. It should be recalled that an SLA force clashed with a terrorist group in the same area two days ago. This shows that the terrorists suffered casualties during the clashes.

Elsewhere, an explosive device went off on the Shama'-al-Bayyadah road yesterday, killing Ghazi Diyab, an SLA security officer.

The terrorist Hizballah organization admitted that one of its members was killed during a clash that broke out between an Israeli force and a terrorist group near Yatar a few days ago. The pro- Hizballah radio, the Voice of

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Light, said that the name of the terrorist, who died at the American University hospital, is Wisam al-Sa'i, born in Tyre in 1975.

SLA Radio Holds Hizballah Responsible for Hula Blast

NC0502152495 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The terrorists have resumed their attacks against the border area's population. An explosive device, which was planted by the terrorists near a mosque in Hula, went off at midday today, killing a 12-year-old boy and a 25-year-old woman. Four others were injured, including a child who was seriously wounded. The child was transferred to an Israeli hospital for treatment. Furthermore, a South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldier was slightly injured in the blast. Our correspondent has learned that the six victims belong to the same family.

Responsible security sources held the terrorist organization, the so-called Hizballah, and its secretary general, Hasan Nasrallah, responsible for the Hula massacre. The sources said that the terrorists are being held responsible for the killing of defenseless citizens. The sources also accuse the present regime in Lebanon of implementing a campaign of hunting down the border area's civilians and of coordinating efforts with Hizballah and other terrorist organizations against innocent people.

The sources added: The border area's citizens wonder if both Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul support the killing of children and defenseless citizens or if they encourage the operations that aim at harming the citizens of the border area, who are just as entitled to be treated with justice and fairness as other citizens.

'Mishap' Reported Between UNIFIL, Hizballah

NC0602130095 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Timor Goksel, official spokesman of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], said that a security mishap has occurred in Khirbat Silm between a UNIFIL patrol and a group of armed Hizballah men, which caused tension in the village. He stressed that the parties concerned rushed to contain the repercussions of the incident. He said that the armed Hizballah men stopped a UNIFIL mechanized patrol and asked its crew not to operate patrols in the area. The patrol crew refused and resumed their work. The Hizballah gunmen then opened fire with machine guns, hitting one of the armored personnel vehicles. They then fired a warning rocket that exploded behind the patrol.

In the meantime, Goksel said that a South Lebanese Army post in Jabal Humayyid directed heavy machine-gun fire at a Nepalese UNIFIL post in Sribbin at 1730 yesterday, causing material damage.

Buwayz, Iranian Envoy Discuss 'Legitimate' Resistance

NC0202213795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Iranian Ambassador in Beirut Homayun 'Alizadeh discussed developments this afternoon. The ambassador said he and Minister Buwayz discussed the military confrontations between Israel and the resistance in the south. He said resistance must continue because it is the internationally-recognized legitimate right of every nation under occupation.

Defense Minister on 'Friendly' Relations With Iran

LD0502222195 Tehran IRNA in English 2206 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Feb. 6, IRNA—The Lebanese defence minister, Muhsin Dallul said here Saturday that Tehran and Beirut enjoy friendly relations.

In an interview which was held on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, he told IRNA correspondent in Baalbek that despite all their difficulties, the Lebanese officials made several trips to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"The Iranian authorities were willing to establish close ties with the Lebanese Government and the people", Dallul noted and added that the Iranian Government voiced its readiness to have cooperation with all Lebanese groups except mercenary elements who had relations with the Zionist regime.

He underlined that the Islamic republic has repeatedly announced its readiness to help Lebanon in all fields.

"The Islamic revolution in Iran has exalted ideals and is not similar to any of revolutions which have happened in the world", he stressed.

He further added that neither West nor East thought that the revolution with the leadership of Imam Khomeyni would gain victory and establish the greatest Islamic government.

Referring to the Iraqi imposed war on Iran, the Lebanese minister added that the Iraqi regime started the war under various pretexts including confrontation with the threat of Islamic revolution, in order to prevent the revolution from countering the Zionist regime.

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Al-Shar' Returns From Cairo Meetings

JN0602212395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at his residence in Cairo this afternoon.

Talks addressed the results of the 10th periodic meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatories. Developments in the region and fraternal bilateral relations were also discussed.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned from Cairo to Damascus this evening after attending the 10th meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatories held in Cairo on 5-6 February.

TISHRIN Terms Israel Arabs' 'Mortal Enemy'

JN0702091695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Feb 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Established Fact," TISHRIN says: Recent developments in the region have further revealed Israel's ugly face and its aggressive, evil intentions. It is now certain that the Rabin government—and the Shamir government before it—did not join the peace process to achieve peace, but to create the appropriate political and psychological conditions to achieve absolute Israeli hegemony over the Arab nation. Therefore, Israel has spared no method to weaken the Arabs, usurp their minds, damage their vision, and consequently control them.

The paper reviews Israel's policy and the maneuvers of the Israeli Government, as well as its propagation of deceptive and false arguments. Israel's current policy cannot make a real, just peace at all. The Arab public is now convinced that the peace the Rabin government is proposing means the surrender of the Arabs, stripping them of their identity, usurping their rights, and subjecting them to further Zionist suppression and terrorism.

TISHRIN concludes: There is now conclusive evidence that Israel is the Arabs' mortal enemy. Israel covets the Arab lands and resources. Damascus's constructive position is the only foundation for establishing a true, viable peace. The gimmicks and deception of the Rabin government will not undermine this fact and will not hide the truth that Israel is the source of tension, unrest, violence, and terrorism in the region.

Paper: Self-Rule Authority 'Helping' Israeli Forces

JN0702081795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Feb 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the 'Opinion' column under the headline "The Policy of Suppression and Threats and the Self-Rule Authority," AL-BA'TH says: Despite all the meetings in different places between Israeli officials and the self-rule authority, and the attempts by some to end the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Israeli forces are still imposing a total siege and practicing all kinds of terrorism. The self-rule authority is helping the Israeli forces in this.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel has succeeded in utilizing the Oslo agreement to consolidate its occupation of the land of Palestine. Israel has continued—actually has stepped up—settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories. The present situation indicates that the self-rule authority has provided Israel with all the conditions that enable it to achieve its objectives. Prior to the Oslo agreement, these objectives were just a dream. Apparently, Israel is not content with its achievements and will seek to make more achievements in other places. It is now almost certain that some people are now more affectionate toward Israel than their homeland and the sons of its neighbor. What we see and hear nowadays exceeds all limits of imagination and is hard to believe.

AL-BA'TH concludes: In any case, we, along with all honorable people in our beloved country and worldwide, will continue to work very seriously to achieve a just, comprehensive, and viable peace that restores rights.

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Afghanistan

Konduz Reportedly Falls to Opposition Forces

LD0602174395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Reports received from Afghanistan say that fighting between rival groups are continuing. The forces opposed to Afghanistan's President Borhanoddin Rabbani have captured Konduz City, located 270km north of Kabul. Our correspondent reports from Islamabad:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] An official spokesman in Kabul said today that the forces under the command of General Dostam took control of Konduz City on Sunday [5 February] after two weeks of fighting. According to the spokesman, the forces affiliated with the government have taken positions in a village located to the north of the city, and are preparing offensive attacks.

Hezb-e Eslami sources in Peshawar, who had earlier announced the capture of strategic points in Konduz, say that the forces of the Coordination Council did not have any problem capturing Konduz and that the people in the city cooperated with them. The sources also rejected a report on the advance of armed groups belonging to the newly formed group of Taleban toward the headquarters of the Hezb-e Eslami in Maidan Shehr, center of Wardak Province. They claimed that the Taleban were forced to retreat.

According to Afghan sources, Hezb-e Eslami's fresh forces have joined Hezb-e Eslami forces in Wardak and have attacked Taleban's positions. The fighting continues in this province and both sides have sustained casualties.

A number of Afghan sources say a group of Taleban are being besieged in the region of Saydabad, Wardak Province, by Hezb-e Eslami.

Taleban formed six months ago, and they have taken control of several provinces in southern Afghanistan. This is the first time that the Taleban forces have faced serious resistance in Wardak. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Hekmatyar Takes Personal 'Rein' of Vardak Forces

LD0502144495 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Jan. 5, IRNA—Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar has rushed to Southern Vardak Province to personally rein his forces fighting the Afghan theology students, taliban, for the control of provincial capital Maydan Shahr, newspapers reported here on Sunday [5 February]. Taliban and forces of Hekmatyar-led Hezb-e Eslami have been locked in fierce fighting for the control of Maydan Shahr considered to be a stronghold of Hekmatyar.

A taliban spokesman claimed that theology students have flushed out rival forces entrenched in the outskirts of Maydan and nearby towns but a Hezb official said that taliban were still 40 kilometers off provincial capital.

State-run Kabul radio said that taliban enjoyed backing of Rabbani forces but theology students denied it. The advancing taliban, unheard of until six months ago, are believed to have fewer than 2,000 men battling in Maydan Shahr but are fresh as compared to their rivals who have been fighting for the last fifteen years. Taliban shot into prominence since July last and are believed to be controlling eight provinces in the south of the war-torn country.

India

Spokesman on U.S. Amnesty Report on Human Rights

BK0702121695 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1010 GMT 7 Feb 95

["Press Release Dated 3 Feb 95"—ISI headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In response to queries on the comments of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck on the human rights violations in India as well as a report presented by the U.S. State Department, the [External Affairs Ministry] spokesman clarified that India has been second to none in its commitment to human rights. We do not shy away from making this clear. We do not accept any linkages or conditionalities in our relationship with foreign countries.

As far as the report is concerned there can be differences in perceptions between India and the United States. Both are friendly countries. We do see that the report has recognized the role played by terrorists in killings and abuses of human rights. We are also glad that unlike last year's report, they have recognized that the National Human Rights Commission [NHRC] of India is functioning very well and is playing an important role.

The spokesman added that we have adequate safeguard built into system, like the free press and judiciary, NGO's [non-government organizations], the NHRC and other bodies which safeguard human rights and we have nothing to be ashamed of our record.

As far as Amnestry International's report is concerned, we have given adequate responses. Amnesty had listed 732 cases to us and in a matter of 10 days, we gave responses in respect of 432 cases. We know what Amnesty has done in its December issue where the photograph of a girl from Tamil Nadu was shown as a girl from Kashmir. They have been interested in their own publicity rather than in human rights violations. As far as suspected officials who have been reported to have

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violated human rights are concerned, investigations are carried out and action taken against the guilty. As far as discussions with Amnesty are concerned, they have come to India twice and have even gone to Bombay and we are carrying on discussions with them. They do not do indepth reporting and once they come out with something like the photograph, it casts aspersions on their own credibility. And, in order to divert attention, they are trying to lay the blame on India and becoming more and more shrill in their responses.

U.S.-PRC Trade War Has 'Certain Implications'

BK0702073395 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 7 Feb 95 p 8

[Editorial: "India at No Risk"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] If the United States and China do ultimately enter a trade war, as both sides are currently threatening to, it would be far more serious than any other trade dispute in the past. However, both previous experience and current indications suggest that such a trade war between the two giants is far from being a foregone conclusion. The two countries have been negotiating for close to two years on the issue of China enforcing intellectual property rights in various areas and have clearly failed to reach an understanding. It could well be argued, therefore, that the period of less than three weeks that remain before the threats by both sides become effective on February 26 may be too little for any progress to be made. However, both the US and China have been close to the brink of such confrontations in the past and come right back from there. The US, for instance, has come close to destructive trade wars with Japan on more than one occasion, but compromises have invariably been worked out. The very fact that despite the strong retaliatory actions threatened by both countries (in the form of high tariff barriers by the US on certain Chinese exports and non-tariff measures by China on US exports and investments) they are still making the right kind of noises about continuing the talks in an attempt to avert a confrontation is a strong indicator that Saturday's sound and fury may signal little else. The strongest reason for the US to seek such a compromise lies in the fact that American business has a well-entrenched interest in ensuring stability in Chinese policies that are at the moment favourable to them. It is no coincidence that China has chosen to meet the threat to block US investments in China. It has clearly assimilated quite well the lessons of the period in which the US administration was threatening to revoke the most favoured nation (MFN) status given to China and was forced to reconsider under intense pressure from its own businessmen.

However, even assuming that some sort of a compromise between the US and China will ultimately be hammered out, the US action of Saturday does have certain implications for India. For, the US is not entirely happy about India's record in enforcing intellectual property rights either, as successive visiting dignitaries from that country have made it a point to stress. The chances of this unhappiness leading to retaliatory measures must at the moment be seen as negligible. For one, the US's displeasure with India's record is not over the inadequacy of its laws, but their implementation and even in this aspect there has been a perceptible improvement. Further, Indo-US political ties are more cordial today than ever in recent memory. Finally, India is a part of the multilateral trading framework under the World Trading Organisation unlike China, and this may provide a cushion against unilateral action. On the other hand, actions against India may not generate the same resistance within the US as those against China do.

Article Views Nation's Role in U.S. Policy

BK0602110595 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 4 Feb 95 p 6

[Article by Mahesh Chandra Sharma: "India in the Asia Policy of the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It appears in the new situation the Unites States of America has made decisive changes in its Asia policy.

When the sole base of U.S. international policy was the imperialistic competition with the Soviet Union, the most important objective of its Asia policy was the fragmentation of the Asian countries, as not even one important Asia country was inclined to join its camp. Then the fragmentation of the Arab countries resulted in the emergence of one country: Israel. Fragmentation of India resulted in the creation of Pakistan and that of China in the creation of Taiwan. The United States was the fosterer of these fragmentations, which came from the womb of colonialist history. The other dimension of this fragmentation was present in the division of North and South Korea. Japan was reduced to smithereens by dropping the atomic bomb. After World War II these were the three epicenters of United States Asia policy. The United States favored Israel as the enemy of the Arab countries while siding with Pakistan and alienating India. Similarly, the United States favored Taiwan over China. In Japan and South Korea it installed its powerful military bases.

Although its competition with the Soviet Union was apparently imperialistic, even in the Afro-Asian Organization's "Nonaligned Movement" (NAM) it remained at daggers drawn with the Soviet Union. In this case U.S. anger was mostly directed at India, which was leading this Third World "Nonaligned Movement." The United States had another grievance against India: that through Indian influence the NAM tilted toward the Soviet camp. The Indian attempt at Asian unity had already been nullified by China. In the 1960's Russia and China had developed very adversarial relations, and China even attacked India. It is not known whether or not U.S. behind-the-scenes diplomacy played any role in this situation. However, the Chinese spokesmen at times

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indulge in giving indications that the then "imperialistic powers" had a great role in ruining relations between India and China.

The United States did render some help to India against the Chinese aggression which, however, did not contribute effectively in the war, yet did act to boost the falling political and military morale of India. The Indian land that China usurped through that aggression is still with China. However, despite this crushing defeat from China and bitter lesson from United States, India did not alter its "idealistic foreign policy." It continued its loyal allegiance to the NAM and never let its active role in the movement fade away, which further intensified U.S. anger. To vent its spleen, the United States began to arm Pakistan against India. But when Pakistan attacked India in 1965, it was India who emerged victorious. It was this war that crushed the high reputation of the American Patton tanks to dust. This defeat of Pakistan was also the defeat of the American strategy. Then she tried, under the PL-480 Rule, to bend Indian pride by means of the food policy. However, the able leadership of Lal Bahadur Shastri vanquished this U.S. strategy squarely by invoking his countrymen to forgo cereal meals once a week. Later, the Tashkent agreement, resulting from Soviet mediation, signified the total failure of the South Asian policy of the United States.

India continued to be an able helmsman to guide the NAM, which in reaction to the U.S. stand continued to tilt toward the Soviet Union.

A superpower like the United States could not penetrate its successful Asian strategy into the establishments of countries like Israel, Pakistan, and Taiwan. For effective control it needed an important country from the West Asian region. In South Asia, too, its base in Pakistan was not firm, and in East Asia it was on the lookout for an establishment able to serve its interests well. It was in this search that it extended its friendly hand to Egypt under the "Camp David" agreement after the death of Nasser. The territory that Israel had usurped in the 1967 war with Egypt was given back to the latter through U.S. mediation. Although for this act Egypt had to suffer reproof from the Arab League, by getting a foothold in and the friendship of Egypt, the United States most certainly strengthened its base in West Asia. It is from this base that it is increasing its area of influence in the region. It was the United States that fought for the Arab countries against Iraq, although there, too, it was protecting its interest through the pretext of safeguarding the security of Kuwait. After the Gulf war, the influence of U.S. leadership increased tremendously in West Asia. Now there are only two powers refusing to toe the American line: Iran and Iraq.

The rest of the West Asian region has already been won over by the United States. Iraq still considers itself to be the heir to the throne of Nasser's Arab nationalism. Despite the deep rooted ill will of the United States against Saddam Husayn, he has proven to be quite indomitable. On the other hand, Iran believes it is the standard-bearer of "pristine Islamism". It is this "pristine Islamism" that is raising the specter of Islamic terrorism against the other West Asian authorities. Although the United States has mostly won over the other leaders in the region, prevalent and deep rooted anti-Americanism is the most popular sentiment of the masses there.

Meanwhile, China broke off its close relations with Russia but did not attach itself to any Asian organization nor to the NAM. The United States tried to exploit this situation to the hilt through various strategic moves. After Mao's death, President Carter extended a friendly hand to China, and despite many setbacks and disturbances this friendship continued to prosper. It was only through the American instigation that ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] came into existence in Indochina. As a result, in East Asia, too, U.S. influence began to grow, which not only resulted in China's getting UN membership but also coming to be recognized as one of the five superpowers of the world. Moreover, the open market of China also received liberal U.S. investment, and it earned most-favored-nation status. Now it has also received U.S. assurance of membership in GATT. A much bigger economic organization, APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation], is coming into existence, and its sole leader is the United States. After much cajoling and wooing, China has agreed to join APEC. The other members of this organization are Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, and South Korea. But since China is believed to be "a difficult" country that does not favor any country without exacting a price, the United States will still not get the unassailable leadership in East Asia that it has in West Asia.

The U.S. problem is its limitation in relying so much on China in its Asia policy. China does not believe in granting favorable or unfavorable treatment in accordance with its friendship or enmity with any outside authority. Despite establishing such favorable relations with China, the United States could not exploit this situation in the North Korean crisis at all. Tiny North Korea continued to insult the United States despite the ardent U.S. desire to get China's support if not through direct action then at least through a favorable statement. However, China flatly refused to do anything that might have the slightest adverse effect on North Korean morale.

Moreover, China is an arms dealer, and Iraq is a very important customer. In the South Asian context, China has its own policy. In Burma it has established a firm base. It she also vies quite indulgently with India in the internal politics of Nepal. It has already been attracting Bhutan to its fold for a long time. After the 1962 aggression it managed to occupy a part of Indian land and is also laying claim to control over a part of "Azad Kashmir" as a result of friendship with Pakistan. China refuses to share any advantage of these "conveniences" with the United States. Even from a trade point of view,

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China is not an easy customer for the United States. Although accepting all U.S. conditions for trade, China managed to get a quite substantial U.S. investment in its market. It does not faithfully adhere to commitments and merrily goes on flouting the conditions as it desires. The U.S. companies want to go to court, but China has no such court whose verdict might favor the American companies and find its own government guilty. The multinational energy companies have a common grievance that initially China accepts their high rates and accompanying conditions to let them install power plants, but later it pressures them to lower their rates quite impudently. Now China has started vying with the United States for supremacy in the Indian Ocean. Hence, the main target of the U.S. Asia policy is now India.

In the 1965 war with Pakistan, the American Patton tanks' reputation received a severe drubbing from the Indian bombers, and in 1971 its Seventh Fleet in the Indian Ocean was also brow-beaten quite decisively when, with Indian military help, Bangladesh emerged as an independent country. The United States felt sorely peeved when Fidel Castro of Cuba was made the chairman of the NAM. It was again India that first recognized Yasir 'Arafat's "government-in-exile," which the United States always branded as terrorist and refused to grant 'Arafat permission to even enter the United States. Thus, there was hardly any international equation in which the United States and India could be evenly balanced. So much so that the United States even predicted Yugoslavia and India would meet the same fate, i.e. fragmentation from within, after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Although the United States tried to raise so many issues in the name of human rights in India's Kashmir and Punjab, it failed miserably.

Now the extra obdurate measures adopted by China and the Indian lenient stand during the Uruguay round have drastically altered the situation. The economically weak and severely loan-afflicted India had to genuflect before the U.S.-controlled bodes like "the IMF" and "the World Bank," which did not conform to India's prestige in the international world. It was this sorry situation that forced India to open its market to the multinationals. Thus, sliding in on the coattails of the multinationals, the United States managed to enter India. It not only wants large Indian markets but also wants to use India politically against the supercilious obduracy of China. The visits of U.S. Defense Secretary Perry and Commerce Secretary Brown have opened a new chapter in Indo-U.S. relations. Only time will tell whether India will manage to exploit its newly formed relationship with the United States to its own advantage or whether it will end up as just another pawn in the global game of U.S. diplomacy. This is a time of trial for Indian leadership.

Economic Reform Said To Affects Foreign Investment

BK0602125295 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 6 Feb 95 p 15

[Article in the "Crossword" column by Jay Dubashi: "The Reform Paradox"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Davos was much in the news last month but the shine seems to be wearing off. Is it a sign if the reformers are having second thoughts about such jamborees in foreign lands? If so, it is good news. The reformers should pay more attention to what is happening - and is likely to happen inside the country than how to attract more and more foreign investment.

I have nothing against foreign investment or, for that matter, against Davos, but it is ridiculous to hint that foreign investment, the more the better, can solve all our problems. It did not solve all problems in China; in fact, it created quite a few new ones. If the world's biggest dictatorship cannot handle problems flowing from indiscriminate foreign investment, it is silly to think that the word's largest democracy can do it.

There are lots of misconceptions about foreign capital. First, that it is in short supply and there is simply not enough of it. Only the other day, Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore was going around saying that there is just so much capital... and its going to be spread very thin. But this is not true.

The capitalist countries are awash with surplus cash, so much that they do not know what to do with it. According to World Bank's Debt Tables, private foreign capital flows alone more than quadrupled in five years, from $42 billion in 1989 to $173 billion in 1994. If capital is in such short supply, how is there suddenly so much of it?

Open any western newspaper and magazine and it's the same story: there is just not enough capital to around; so, if you want some of it, sign on the dotted line, and be quick about it.

In fact, I suspect it is the other way round. Multinationals simply do not know what to do with the cash they are generating. they can use only a portion it in their own countries because of lack of demand. Demand comes from consumption, and consumption from consumer. The companies are laying off people by the thousand, and every man without a job is a man without purchasing power.

The biggest problem in rich countries is not money but jobs. It sounds strange that countries with so much money should not be able to use it to provide jobs to their own people, but that's a fact. According to a study by OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development), which is a kind of rich man's club, unemployment is probably the most widely feared phenomenon of our times. The OECD countries are all growing again but they have as many as 35 million without jobs, and the average OECD unemployment is nearly triple what it was 20 years ago.

This has nothing to do with the business cycle. Profit-driven companies are downsizing year after year, throwing out millions of men, in pursuit of profits and efficiency. Between 1980 and 1993, the 500 Fortune

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companies cut nearly 5 million people from their roster, bringing the work force down by a quarter. Incidentally, the entire workforce in manufacturing in the private sector in India is less than 5 million. It as if, all the Tata, Birla, Goenla and Ambani factories, along with thousands of others, had closed shop and sent their staff home for good.

Rich countries can afford it. I doubt whether countries like India can. Things are so bad in some of these rich countries that one-fifth of all young men and women in Europe, for instance, are without jobs, and one-seventh in the United States. And this at a time when their economies are flourishing. In fact, the US economy is growing so fast that the Federal Reserve has been raising interest rates every few weeks - it did so six times last year and did it again three days ago. It is a very funny situation: GDP is growing, inflation is rising, and so is unemployment.

The more efficient the firms, the bigger their profits, and therefore their surplus, They are therefore under pressure all the time to find an outlet for their capital. It is foreign capital that is under pressure to find markets, not the other way round. What can Coca Cola do in the US where they not only drink the stuff every few hours but probably use it to water the plants. They need us as much as we need them, whatever Lee Kuan Yew may say. I do not take Yew very seriously, because Singapore is not so much a country as a small city, almost entirely built by foreigners. India can never be Singapore.

Look at what is happening in India now. Within three years of our opening the doors, foreign investors are crowding the corridors of power with their wares, like fast-talking hustlers in bazaars. They are all here now, from IBM to Coca Cola, from Siemens to Dr Pepper, from Sony to Merrill Lynch. And they look relieved and happy to be here. The happiest man I ever saw was a Coca Cola man who had taken the first flight out of Atlanta on hearing that India was opening its doors to the likes of him. India is one market they believed they could never succeed in laying their hands on. And suddenly their prayers were answered.

Five years from now, maybe ten years, we shall have two systems working side by side in India. An entirely profit-oriented system that goes by the bottom line, against a job-based system where wages are poor, profits are poor but everybody makes a living. In the first system, salaries will be in lakhs a year, if not lakhs a month. In the second, a few thousand a year, maybe a month.

Can the two systems co-exist? In China yes, as long as the communists are in power. In India? I have my doubts. Within only three years of reforms, the reformers are on the streets, begging for votes.

Congress Economic Policy Seen as 'Dangerous'

95AS0204C Jaipur RAJASTHAN PATRIKA in Hindi 6 Jan 95 p 6

[Article by Balraj Mehta: "The Rao Government's Economic Policy and the Indian People"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ever since Narashima Rao assumed the prime ministership the country has faced political tensions. During the last three and a half years both the administrative and legal processes have sustained serious injuries. It is therefore, neither a coincidence nor surprising, that the electorate would start looking for an alternative capable of revitalizing the administrative process and of restoring the Indian republic to its democratic foundation on the basis of principles which were laid after the [British] imperialistic rule. It is essential for those political powers to join hands who are alive to the social and economic welfare of the society. It has become important now that these powers are represented within the organizations of power and administration. The recent Vidhan Sabha elections also send this message which has shaken the party in power at the center. The prime minister is sensing defeat in the [current] Vidhan Sabha elections scheduled prior to the Lok Sabha elections. He [Rao] has therefore, declined to accept that these elections cast any doubt on the democratic basis of his government. In the beginning he had said that he was asking for votes to strengthen his policies and status at the center but it is now dangerous to stick to this concept. It will injure his party and his plans for economic reform. Any reform in policies and a change in modus operandi will not be beneficial.

It is often said that in order to solve complex problems, hard decisions are required. The truth is that hard decisions always hurt. The question is: whom do they hurt? This principle is very subjective in the context of India because of its immense social diversity. Half of the population barely gets by. Ten percent of the people use the available resources for their luxury and do not let the resources reach the poor. They employ these resources to expand their socio-economic status and to gain political influence. It is noteworthy that there is fierce competition to obtain these resources and resources are thus scarce for developmental schemes. This causes ever increasing conflict among differing interests which also at times surfaces as violence. The different factions of Indian economy include; big industrialists, the middle class with people who depend on them, academicians and farmers. All these factions desire to dominate the Indian economy and press their right to make demands. These also surface through the medium of political parties. That is why the exploited and resource deprived people have no importance in politics. The common people believe that the party in power at the center is more to blame for this condition than other political parties.

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Despair in the Party

The recent elections have sent a wave of despair throughout the [Congress] party and have shattered it. Those internal group conflicts of the party which gently surfaced last year have now openly emerged in dangerous proportions. The contesting groups are at war with each other. The faithful and discontented party members can be easily identified. The status of Narasimha Rao, who considers himself beyond challenge as leader of the ruling party, has become the leader of a group. Under these circumstances the Congress Party is on the verge of disintegrating. Three and a half years ago, Narashima Rao, after becoming the prime minister adopted economic, social, political and foreign policies which differed from the national consensus formed after the independence of India. He never tried to gain popular support for his policies. Under the mask of his prime ministership he always preferred secrecy, double standards and tried to cover up the truth. He always stayed away from openness, and his responsibility to the people and the Parliament on all issues whether pertaining to economic or social policies, temple-mosque disputes or issues relating to foreign policy. He also did not hesitate in encouraging members of the opposition parties in changing their party affiliation and used his own party conflicts to strengthen his position. Instead of decentralizing the central administration and the structure of party organization he intensely consolidated it. His attitude on the Report of Recommendations of the Joint Parliament Committee and on the sugar scandal confirm his behavior. More importantly these scandals clarify that not only do they protect the guilty ones but also support them. Several scandals have brewed during the past three and a half years and all are connected with the liberal economic policies. These scandals have provided the basis for the revival of the socialist political parties.

Rush in Organizing Committees

The supporters of market oriented economic reforms want to give a new face to these reforms. They believe that this work should be completed before the [current] Vidhan Sabha and 1996 Lok Sabha elections so that on this basis, the voter support can be rallied. It means that for the success of the economic reform program initiated under pressure in 1991, democratic cooperation is essential. It shows that the promises may be made but any effort to implement them may not be initiated. This sheds enough light on Narashima Rao's political philosophy and his intention to implement schemes for economic reforms. The people with vested interests appeal to him that he should play the game of deceiving the voters with skill and caution. Those who have vested interests in the reform programs advise on the means to complete the work. Certain committees have been formed in a haste to develop programs to effect cheap popular publicity without hurting the reform planning. They are openly advised to follow the leaders of Argentine and Peru in declining to implement the election promises after winning the elections. But they forget that the Indian voter in spite of being illiterate, exploited, and ill resourced is sentimental and awake. He has the legacy of the nation's war for independence and he has seen many such games.

From time to time the Indian electorate has demonstrated a surprising selfless ability to reverse the prethought calculations, and has cleaned out double talking politicians and specialists. The Indian people will not be misguided by politicians' double talk. The upper and middle classes hope to reap some profit from the development brought by the multinational companies, and think that modern technology will easily come to India. That is why they support liberal economic reforms and privatization with all their might. This can provide an avenue to demonstrate their strength and reap benefits. It is not surprising that they support Rao and that he has the confidence of the foreign industrialists who can invest in industry in India. Even though the voters have rejected their scheme to bring dollars to India, they do not cease prescribing use of dollars as the medicine for Indian problems. In a public meeting in Poona, Rao said, "I can give one million dollars tonight to Sharadji (chief minister of Maharashtra) if he so desires." Rao is so charmed with dollars that he does not want to understand that Indian people do not want dollars. They want the necessary consumer products at reasonable prices. The Indian people need business opportunities and returns for their labor. The people fail to understand why are they being overlooked for money dominated and labor saving technical mediums. These technical advances impacts the rich upper class of India which happens to be a small minority. The common people of India want the fruits of development to be equally available to everyone which is not possible under the present political establishment.

The revival of [dormant] Indian political powers can be achieved dramatically. The supporters of the structural reform program will feel after some time that the political medium being used by them has lost its usefulness. It does not appear likely that those who favor liberal economic policies and multinational companies will be able to survive in the the huge juggernaut of Indian politics.

Iran

'Reprisal' Pledged if Israel Attacks

LD0702141295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 7 Feb 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The letter which Mr. Khushru, the deputy head of the Islamic Republic of Iran's representative office at the UN, had sent to the Secretary General Mr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali on the subject of Iran's peaceful nuclear program, was published

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and distributed as a Security Council document at the UN headquarters in New York on Monday February 6. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Republic of Iran, being the major victim of chemical weapons, has always opposed the production and use of weapons of mass destruction, considering them to be against humane norms. Nevertheless the point worth mentioning is that if the Zionist regime officials implement their insensitive threat of carrying out an attack on Iran's nuclear research centers, the Islamic Republic of Iran will act firmly and strongly as to give a condign reprisal.

In the view of the informed political experts, putting an end to the dual attitude of different countries in dealing with the use of nuclear energy and the NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty] is an inevitable need and a revision should begin with the signing of the NPT by the Zionist regime and the regular inspection of that regime's nuclear installations by impartial experts.

Atomic Energy Head Comments on NPT 'Major Faults'

LD0602114695 Tehran IRNA in English 1031 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—Vice President and Director of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization Reza Amrollahi said that the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) had two major faults.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the English-language daily IRAN NEWS, Amrollahi said that "there was serious discrimination in the implementation of Article 4, which permitted states without a nuclear arsenal to research, produce and benefit from atomic energy for peaceful ends."

He added that an oversight in Article 1 prevented the exchange of atomic weapons or bomb manufacturing technology between countries, while Article 6, stressed the continuation of disarmament negotiations and final elimination of all such weapons, reported the paper.

"Isreal is in no way under atomic control or surveillance. It has not signed the npt and does not permit the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its nuclear installations," Amrollahi warned.

Noting that the Zionist's position was against the entire world, the Muslim nations in particular, the official added "Israel is so arrogant towards international pacts and regulations that even Egypt, which has close ties with it, has protested against this attitude. Therefore, it is necessary that the position of Israel be wholly and definitely established," the paper quoted him as saying.

Amrollahi noted that the NPT, in its present shape, discriminated between different signatories to the agreement. "Several wealthy nations are wholly free of all obligations and limitations. But any attempt by other nations in the direction of Article 4 is greeted by condemnation, threat or sanction. The NPT must be equal for all."

On a question as to why the Islamic countries were signing the NPT and permitting the IAEA to inspect their nuclear istallations while Israel, the prime enemy of all Muslim nations, refrained from doing so, Amrollahi said "other countries spoke for themselves, but Iran did not wish to be comparable to Israel's usurper government."

"We are trying to put a stop to the illegal actions of Israel by revisiting the NPT. In other words, we are seriously seeking a zone free of nuclear weapons," the paper quoted Amrollahi as saying.

On recent flagrant discrimination by the U.S., Amrollahi noted the U.S. Government believed it could "intrude on the identity of the IAEA by not granting a visa to a representative of a state which it did not favor, just because the U.N. building was located in its territory.

Last week the U.S. Government refused to grant a visa to Iran's representative to the IAEA who was to attend the NPT review conference.

Amrollahi stressed that by doing so Washington violated and ignored the rights of all the countries in the world who had an equal right to validate t he identity of this internaitonal institution.

As for Iran's suggestions for regional peace in light of the NPT, Amrollahi referred to six points including "creation of a nuclear free zone in the Middle East, an equal attitude towards countries in the region, bringing Israel under international scrutiny, facilitation of peaceful nuclear activities for signatory nations, without exception, sufficient security guarantees from nulcear-armed nations to guard against attack or threat, which would refer to both nuclear and non-nuclear countries, submission of a specific time- table for the complete dismantaling of nuclear weapons and prohibition of production and storage of fissional materials used in building nuclear weapons."

Amrollahi stressed that the IAEA must demand a report relating to nuclear installations in Israel. According to the confirmed reports, the official added, "Israel owned more than 200 missiles with nuclear warheads."

He asked the states which were dreaming of peace with Israel whether they wanted to make peace with an Israel which "is like a cancer tumor. With an Israel with atomic bombs and warheads or an Israel disarmed of nuclear weapons?"

Back to the issue of Iran's atomic energy, the paper quoted Amrollahi as saying that Iran's atomic power plants were built to produce electricity. This was the right of every nation, and the United Nations confirmed that all countries have a right to progress.

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He added that all personnel in Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO) were specialists and technically-minded and that with the cooperation of industrial universities, Iran was training future staff.

Iran's atomic capacity in "isotherapy and chemotherapy competes with European nations," noted Amrollahi adding, meanwhile, Iran "ranks first in providing protection against radiation and we have transferred such technology to Syria, Abu Dhabi, etc.," the paper reported.

Amrollahi concluded by saying that sterilization of medical equipment was another field in which Iranin Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO) had been involved for the last six years.

IAEO had little success in agriculture but had high aims for that sector. The organization owned two wind power plants with 1/1mg capacity at Rudbar and Manjil, Amrollahi told the paper.

Velayati on Relations With Sweden, Norway, Iraq

LD0602124095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the auspicious occasion of Ten Days of Dawn and the 16th anniversary of Iran's glorious Islamic revolution, today the Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati opened the eighth exhibition of the Persian documents and archive material of the Caucasus region. This exhibition, housed at the Foreign Ministry department for political and international studies, contains more than 100 historical documents dating back to a period between 1468 and 1852. The documents are about the Azerbaijan, Georgian, and Armenian regions, which constituted part of the Iranian boundaries in those days. [passage omitted]

During the opening ceremony, the foreign minister answered a question raised by a reporter on cancellation of the Deputy Foreign Minister Va'ezi's visit to Sweden. Mr. Velayati said: The visit was cancelled in the wake of mutual agreement of the two sides. The visit will take place in an appropriate time.

About the relations between Iran and Norway, our country's foreign minister said: Some policies of the Norwegian authorities on cultural and diplomatic matters have not been the right approach; and they have been influenced by the climate.

Mr. Velayati added: Our stand towards Salman Rushdie is the same as the stand adopted by His Eminence Imam [Khomeyni], may God bless his soul; and this stand has been approved by the Organization of the Islamic Conference with no votes against.

About his visit to Iraq, he said: This visit requires advance planning by the experts.

On the international sanctions against Iraq, he said: This is an issue that should be resolved by the United Nations. However, we believe the Iraqi people should be granted favor on humanitarian grounds so that they do not suffer.

Diplomat Views Relations With Germany

NC0502111895 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 25 Jan 95 p 2

[Interview with Seyyed Hoseyn Musavian, ambassador to Germany, by unidentified correspondent in Bonn; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [ABRAR] What is Germany's position in Iran's foreign trade structure?

[Musavian] Traditionally, Germany has a special position in Iran's foreign trade and has been its foremost trade partner for many years. A large part of Iran's industry has been set up with German technology and machinery. The main German exports to Iran comprise advanced industrial machinery and capital-yielding goods. Germany is the also the greatest importer of Iranian non-oil products in the world. It enjoyed the largest share in our first economic [5-year] plan as compared to all other countries and the same scope exists in our current plan. Accordingly, Germany's position in Iran's foreign trade can be considered noteworthy and most important.

[ABRAR] Should Iran's vantage point on Germany be within the limits or the perspective of a united Europe even though this country has its own distinctive position and outlook?

[Musavian] Iran should view Germany from two aspects: one is Germany and Iran. Iran and Germany have their own characteristic relations which are different from those with other Western countries due to the wonderful traditional and historical relations that they enjoy and in view of the dazzling growth in their political, economic, and parliamentary relations in the past few years. In the future, they can continue to have similarly distinctive relations with one another.

However, one should accept that for Germany, the European Union [EU] is a primary consideration in foreign policy and in its capacity as a superior European power as compared to France it acts as a motor [preceding word in English] for the European Union. Germany's overall interests in a united Europe are more important for it than relations with Iran, the Persian Gulf, the Middle East, and even with Japan and the United States. Thus, we should be cognizant of Germany's limitations in this regard.

In the light of these two aspects, we should consider Germany a door for the improvement of relations with Europe in view of the cordial relations between the two

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countries as well as the special role and status of Germany in Europe and its commitments to the European Union and the EU's relations with the outside world.

In my opinion this would be the best and most sensible perspective which Tehran and Bonn can have on bilateral relations so that they have realistic expectations. [passage omitted]

[ABRAR] Does Germany attach special importance to Iran or does it view us within the framework of the Middle East or the Persian Gulf region?

[Musavian] If we want to make a realistic assessment, it attaches special importance to both, that is, to relations with Iran as well as the collective considerations as regards the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. It cannot ignore the issues and developments of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf in its relations with Iran. Of course, if the issue of the importance of Iran's role and position in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East is propounded, all these countries including France, Britain, Japan, and the United States admit to this importance and view Iran in this light.

It would be more realistic if Iran and Germany were to see one another in a special light with concomitant earnest cooperation for their reciprocal interests in the Persian Gulf, Middle East, Central Asia, and Europe for the purpose of international peace, stability, and security.

[ABRAR] In its relations with Iran, is Germany bound by the wishes and thoughts of the United States or does it adopt an independent attitude?

[Musavian] As regards relations with Iran, Germany is not subject to the wishes and thoughts of the United States but it cannot ignore them a hundred percent either. Differences between the United States and Germany were quite evident during the sessions of the G-7 summit in Germany, Japan, and Italy.

Germany's initiative in rescheduling Iran's debts met with intense opposition from the United States. The level of political economic, parliamentary, and cultural relations between the two countries in the past two to three years have constantly encountered U.S. objections which have been very overt and the United States has reprimanded Germany as well. Such instances which are the clear indications of Bonn distancing itself from Washington's policies with regard to Tehran are quite numerous and cannot be ignored. At the same time, however, in my opinion if there were no U.S. pressure, Germany would have no problems in completing the Bushehr [nuclear] power station. Similar to their European counterparts, the German media are under the negative propaganda of the U.S. mass media. We can cite many instances of this.

One should view Germany from the vantage point of a country that has sought to adopt a balancing role with regard to the harsh and hostile viewpoint of the United States on the West's relations with Iran.

Germany has been and will be able to mitigate U.S. pressure on Iran and to balance relations between Iran and the West but it will not be able to eliminate the actual issue (U.S. hostility toward Iran) at least not for the next few years. One must pay special attention to this issue with regard to future Iranian-German relations and should not have unlimited expectations from Germany and relations with that country.

Bank Governor Discusses Italian Debt Issue

LD0502141495 Tehran IRNA in English 0812 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rome, Feb. 4, IRNA—Governor of Iran's Central Bank (CBI), Mohsen Nurbakhsh, said that banking problems which could create hindrances in Iran-Italy economic relations have been removed. Talking to IRNA here Friday at the conclusion of his four-day visit to Italy, he described his visit to Italy as successful and said the problem of delayed debts to Italian companies under 'SACE' insurance company has been completely settled. He said that the issue of the debts to companies outside sace would be settled up to end of february.

According to a contract to be signed late February this year, Iran would pay 25 percent of its debts in cash and the rest would be paid as of July 1995 in sixteen three-monthly instalments, he added.

Nurbakhsh noted that since the framework of Iran's second development plan was clear, Italy, like other countries, could play an active role in certain areas including tranfer of technology and technical know-how. He further said that Rome was one of Tehran's major trade partners, adding Iran welcomed expansion of relations with the country. He concluded by saying that according to an agreement between Iranian Central Bank and the Banca d'Italia several reaserch groups would be formed on banking and economic affairs. The two sides will cooperate to improve the monitoring system and computrization of Iranian banks, he said adding presently, Iran and Germany have already began cooperation in this area.

U.S. Policies Regarding Islam Termed 'Hypocritical'

LD0602141695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 6 Feb 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an unofficial gathering of senior NATO officials in Munich, the U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry has asked his European allies to take the danger of Islam in the Mediterranean seriously.

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Political analysts believe that the statement of this American official is not a new stance and that America has already shown its enmity towards Islam and the Muslims during the Islamic revolution in Iran as well as the crisis in Palestine, Bosnia, and Chechnya.

However, the statement is significant in the sense that it reveals the hypocritical behavior of the White House.

Following the victory of the Islamic revolution, America declared war against Islam and Islamism, but now that the Islamic awakening has spread in the Islamic world, particularly in the strategic region of the Middle East, this hegemonic power feels the above stance is threatening its interests—so much so that the stand has created an extensive crisis for America's regional allies.

This concern has forced America to review its earlier stance and make new policies.

Within the context of the new behavior, the leaders of the White House see the Middle East as an area of crisis where the violation of their own international slogans for the expansion of the democratic model, respect for human rights, and support for free elections is allowed.

This strategy rationalizes American and Western indifference to the military coup against the elected representatives of the people of Algeria and the violation of the rights of the majority in this country, as well as the extensive violation of human rights in Palestine, Egypt, Algeria, [Saudi] Arabia, and Bahrain.

Another behavior designed to reduce Muslim reaction against the American enmity and its deception of public opinion is to believe in a division in Islam.

American officials have recently announced that this country has great respect for Islam, has no enmity against it, and only opposes Islamic fundamentalism and violence.

Political analysts believe that in its new challenge, America has not only failed to solve the existing contradictions vis-a-vis the Islamic world, but it has created new ones.

America has taken a double-standard policy towards the issues of democracy and human rights inside and outside the Islamic world, and has therefore revealed its hypocritical nature.

In its enmity to Islamic fundamentalism—which has no meaning but a return to Islam fundamentals—and equating Islamic fundamentalism with violence, America has now revealed even more its enmity with the totality of Islam.

Commentary Views Turkey's 'Propaganda War'

NC0402140895 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 25 Jan 95 p 15

[Commentary by A. Salah: "The Propaganda War of the Seculars Has Intensified"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For some time now we have been busy with various issues and have not had the opportunity to comment on the seculars in Turkey. But recently we have once again been hearing slogans such as "Turkey will not become another Iran" from our neighbors, and this has prompted us to discuss recent developments in Turkey.

Two years after the wretched cry by the seculars in Turkey accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran of terrorism and reactionary behavior, once again this slogan is being heard from the mouths of the rotten seculars within the framework of the West's propaganda onslaught against Islam. What happened is that a bomb exploded during one of the maniacal celebrations on the Christian New Year's Eve at one of Istanbul's nightclubs, which was frequented by capitalists and seculars. Two of the dear customers of the nightclub were killed in the blast! One of the lascivious wine- drinkers was (Unat Kutlar), who wrote for MILLIYET and CUMHURIYET. According to Western radios, during the funeral service for this secular author, his fellow thinkers chanted slogans against Islam and the Islamic Republic and shouted that "Turkey will not become another Iran! Turkey is a secular country and will stay a secular country! Turkey will not allow Islam to rule!" These slogans were used, although there was no proof of who perpetrated the explosion and no one had assumed responsibility for it. Also, Turkey's security and judicial authorities still do not have any clues on who was behind the incident. Nevertheless, the seculars and other Western and Zionist imperialist elements referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran as the culprit. Of course, in their opinion the time was ripe for such accusations, since during recent weeks the imperialist mass media has embarked on an extensive propaganda against Iran. Thus, it was in unison with this propaganda that the cries of "Death to Islamic Terrorism" rose in Turkey.

Of course, we have not forgotten that approximately two years ago the atmosphere in Istanbul, which should have been one of Islamic values, was filled with the treacherous cries of the seculars and of the enemies of the Muslim Turkish nation. At that time CUMHURIYET journalist Mumcu was killed in a bomb explosion. But without going to the pain of thinking a little bit about the incident, the seculars immediately accused Iran and shouted: "Turkey will not become another Iran!...Let those who want the shariah go to Iran...Death to the shariah!"

It is interesting to note that at that time also not even one Turkish official bothered to ask: What makes you link this explosion to Iran? But of course they did not need any legal or logical reason to accuse Iran.

In those days a magazine called NOKTA carried a caricature depicting hundreds of people in a funeral procession chanting "Turkey will not become another Iran" and a row of U.S. company signs instead of mosque minarets on the other side of the street.

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What the caricaturist wanted to convey was that "obviously Turkey will not become another Iran because the diktat of U.S. companies is predominant in Turkey and prevents it."

Two years have passed since then and the Turkish courts are still going in circles in their search for the perpetrator. But today, following comments by Mumcu's widow, the Turkish people realize that this crime was perpetrated at a time when her husband was carrying out research on the Kurdish Workers Party and Turkey's security and intelligence organization, the MIT, and that he had reached a sensitive point in this research. Thus, he was killed by elements who did not want MIT secrets to be revealed and ultimately Islamic Iran was accused—in a coordinated effort with the CIA, the Mosad, and the MIT—of the explosion. Now, two years after the incident, the same accusations are being aimed at Islam and the Islamic revolution.

Needless to say, this propaganda campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran is not limited to the seculars in Turkey. The heads of world arrogance are also trembling from their fear of the antioppressive nature of the Islamic revolution, and it is actually the West that is fanning the flames of the Turkish seculars' propaganda against Iran.

Report Details IRGC's Zolfaqar Tank, Boraq APC

LD0402145995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 2 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first batch of T-72/Z, Zolfaqar [name of sword of Imam 'Ali, first Shiite imam], tanks and Boraq [mythical bird on whose wings the Prophet Muhammad is said to have ascended to paradise] personnel carriers, manufactured by the Defense Industries Organization have been delivered to the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC]. I draw your attention to our correspondent's report on the specifications of the T-72/Z tanks and Boraq personnel carriers:

[Unidentified correspondent] The T-72/Z tank is an advanced version of the T series of tanks. Its manufacture began in 1371 [Iranian year starting 21 March 1992] at the Defense Industries Organization. It has a high precision, high fire power, a very good level of maneuverability and a suitable armored body. Improved visibility and a better gun are other features of the Zolfaqar tank. The use of a suitably-powerful engine has led to desirable speed and acceleration for the tank.

[Begin IRGC Commander Brigadier General Mohsen Reza'i recording] The features of the personnel carrier made by the Islamic Republic make it effective in technical and tactical aspects. We have learned a lot about the technical side from the eight years of holy defense. In fact, all the views of our combat forces who were present in the holy defense were taken into account in the production of the carrier. I believe, technically speaking, this carrier can be compared to the most modern personnel carriers of the world. Tactically, it is more advanced than many personnel carriers of the world, since we managed to utilize our eight years of experience during the holy defense into the industry. We used all the experiences of the holy defense in the manufacture of the personnel carriers. [end recording]

Economic Developments, Figures Reported

Council Sets Medicare Budgets

LD0602191995 Tehran IRNA in English 1854 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb 6, IRNA—The High Council of Social Security and Medicare Services on Monday [6 February] adopted a decision to authorize medicare budgets for each province on the basis of the revenues acquired by them.

The Council also approved an annual budget of rls 317,000 billion for the Social Security and Medicare Organization of Iran.

The public relations office of the Social Security said Monday that the Council had also earmarked rls 270 billion for investment expenditures on development projects, building hospitals and completing clinics now half finished. The council earmarked rls 40 billion to be invested on building residential concentrated quarters, and another rls 1,394 billion for financing retirement salaries of persons covered by the Social Security Retirement Act and for offering lifetime funds to survivors of deceased pensioners.

Construction Starts on Industrial Fishery

LD0502190395 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mazandaran Prov., Feb. 5, (IRNA)—Construction operation for the country's first industrial fishery area with a credit of rls. 15.8 billion started in Babolsar Sunday [5 February].

An official of Mazandaran fishery, Hassan Habib Nezhad, said that 20 production units of fish powder, sausage and canned fish production plants, two cold storage manufacturing plants will be installed in the region. Habib Nezhad said that Babolsar industrial-fishery area is to come on stream in 1996 and is to create job oportunity for 700 people.

Another development indicated that a fishing vessle with a capacity of 25 tons a day was launched in waters of fishery area in Babolsar today.

Director general of Mazandaran fishery organization, Mohammad Qasemi, said the vessel cost rls. 310 million.

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With 13.3 meter length, 5 meter width and 3 meter height, vessel named as "Ruhollah Combatants" is made of fiberglass and equipped with modern fishing systems.

Kilka fleet of Mazandaran fishery organization has 26 fishing vessels.

Non-Oil Commodities To Be Exported

LD0402222695 Tehran IRNA in English 2130 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—Dlrs. 27.5 billion worth non-oil commodities are to be exported in Second Five-Year Economic Development Plan (1995-2000) in view of facilities provided by Majles and government in this respect, Deputy Commerce Minister for Exports 'Ali Saeedlu [name as received] told IRNA here Saturday [4 February].

Saeedlu expressed hope that Iran's exports by the second plan would show over 230 percent of rise than in the first Five-Year Economic Development Plan (1989-1994) following enforcement of a Central Bank proposed bill ratified by Majles concerning new foreign exchange rates policy.

He said that cheap workforce and raw materials were among incentives making Iran remarkable coupled with a 300-million population market of Central Asian and other countries awaiting for its products.

As for export of carpets over the past few years, Saeedlu said that export of the commodity fetched the country over dlrs. 2,520 million, showing a figure much more than that of all carpets exported between the Iranian years 1360 (March 21, 1981-March 20, 1982) and 1369 (March 21, 1990, March 21, 1991).

Sugar Plant Produces $700 Million

LD0502202495 Tehran IRNA in English 1956 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—Deputy minister of agriculture for productivity mechanism, Hassan Tabatabaei [name as received] said here on Sunday [5 February] that the value of the products of Khuzestan's sugarcane plant in southwestern Iran exceeded dlrs. 700 millon annually.

Speaking to IRNA economic correspondent, Tabatabaei said that dlrs. 1,500 million and rls. 3,145 billion were envisaged to be spent on the development plan at seven units of the Khuzestan sugarcane plant.

He said that dlrs. 400 million was already spent on the project were provided from the balance of the sugar price in Karun and Haft Tappeh sugar plants, through bank loans, the investment of the organization of social security and own revenues of the sugar mills as well.

Tabatabaei said that the development plan is underway in six units of the seven-unit of Khuzestan sugar plant with 62 percent progress at Ami Kabir sugar-mill, 59 percent progress at Shaeibieh, 52 percent at Dabal Khazaei, 44 percent progress at Ghazali unit, 23 percent at Mirza Kuchek Khan and eight percent at Farabi sugar mill.

One of the said sugar mills would be put into operation in the calendar year of 1375 (1996-1997), two other mills in 1376 and another in 1377, he said.

The Agriculture Ministry official said that dlrs. 60 million was earmarked to erect each sugar mill, 60 percent of the amount will be paid in hard cash and the remainder would be paid from the revenues of the mills.

He said that a contract has been signed with Egypt to build the sugar mills and dlrs. 149 million would be paid by Egypt from the money owed to Iran.

15.5 Million Tons of Wheat Expected by 1998

LD0502202795 Tehran IRNA in English 2000 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Orumieh (West. Azarbaijan Prov.), Feb. 5, IRNA—Minister of agriculture, 'Isa Kalantari said here on Sunday [5 February] that Iran would yield more than 15.5 million tons of wheat annually by the end of the Second Development Plan (1994-1998).

The current production of wheat is 11 million tons annually.

Kalantari said that two million tons of wheat is exported annually and that the import of wheat would reach zero if the wastage of wheat consumption reduced.

Referring to the government's agricultural policy during the Second Five-Year Development Plan (1994-1998), he said that through supporting the agriculture, dependence upon import of agricultural items would reduce gradually.

He said that the dependence on import of agricultural items had reached five percent. The amount will reach 3.5 percent by the end of the Second Development Plan, he said.

He said that his ministry would promote the regional cultivation and that potato will be cultivated in southern part of the country to meet domestic needs.

Nepal

Cuban Foreign Minister Meets With Leaders

LD0302172395 Kathmandu Radio Nepal in English 1415 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] His Majesty [words indistinct] the foreign minister of Cuba, Roberto Robaina Gonzalez, at the royal palace today. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense and Foreign Affairs, Madhav Kuma Nepal, and Cuban ambassador to Nepal, Olga Chamero Trias, were also present on the occasion. Foreign minister of Cuba, Roberto Robaina Gonzalez,

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called on Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari in Kathmandu today. On the occasion they discussed matters of bilateral interest and friendly cooperation. [passage omitted]

Official talks were held between Nepal and Cuba at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Shital Niwas, today. The Nepalese delegation to the talks was led by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Madhav Kumar Nepal, while the Cuban delegation was led by the visiting minister of foreign affairs of Cuba, Roberto Robaina Gonzalez. The topics covered during the talks included matters of bilateral and common interest, according to the ministry of foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Editorial Views U.S. Trade Sanctions Against China

BK0602131095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 6 Feb 95 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. Sanctions Against China"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States has imposed trade sanctions against China in reprisal for the inability of the Chinese government to check piracy of American music, video and computer software by China. For compact discs alone China earned about $70 million worth of business abroad and hence the reluctance of the government to take punitive action against those who pirate. But US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor held out hope that there would be no sanctions if China would meet US demands by February 26. Beijing is not considering reconciliation but retaliation and has already declared that it would suspend imports of films, television programmes, video tapes and laser discs and stop all relations with US agencies dealing with intellectual property rights. Beijing has also expressed both its great regret about and its strong resentment against, the unilateral trade sanctions. This is in spite of the fact that the US had extended the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to China, a status coveted by Third World countries since it encourages a country's exports.

The crux of the problem lies in the two sides having divergent economic interests. The American government feels that piracy of their products is illegal under the new GATT world accord and means lower US exports. The Third World response to this is that there is nothing fair about the GATT accord. They argue that America in particular and the West in general made a trade-off with the poor countries by getting rid of the unfair Multi-Fibre Agreement (MFA), applicable to trade in textiles, over a ten year period by getting through its proposals on what it terms intellectual property rights. That MFA has a long way to go and its final dismantlement would benefit only the rich in poor countries and not the poor, is also a point of concern for poor countries. And finally, some claim that by imposing patents even on agriculture, the GATT round did a disservice to the poor countries because what was carried out as normal seed collecting activity would be patented now by big multinational firms who would sell it to the local farmer at very expensive rates. The question is, why did the Third World countries ratify GATT? The answer unfortunately is that not enough importance was given to the poor and the disadvantaged and too much to the textile sector. Governments hoped that the higher textile exports would lead to a trickle-down effect but so far, even though per capita income has increased, the trickle down is not very visible.

Paper Supports Perry View of Pressler Amendment

BK0402123795 Karachi DAWN in English 3 Feb 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Washington's belated wisdom"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It comes as a bit of a shock to hear someone as centrally-placed in the American establishment as the Defence Secretary, Mr William Perry, to purvey almost exactly the same arguments about the ineffectiveness of the Pressler Amendment as Pakistan has been doing for the last five years. Speaking of the negative impact of this law, Mr Perry, while addressing the Foreign Policy Association of New York, has said that the five-year old congressional ban on aid and military sales to Pakistan has undermined US efforts to contain a potential nuclear arms race between India and Pakistan. In his view it has also become an obstacle to reducing military tensions in the subcontinent. Giving his assessment that both countries are determined to stick to their nuclear programmes, the US defence secretary says that the weapons ban, "a blunt instrument," had done nothing to improve the situation. Furthermore, "it has undermined the influence we formerly had there" (in Pakistan). Not only that, it "could even help push them (that is, both countries) into an unfettered arms race, and that would be inviting the disastrous." There is another quote from this speech which is worth setting down in full: "In fact, the weakening of Pakistan's conventional forces which resulted from this amendment has led Pakistan's leaders to conclude that a nuclear capability is even more important to maintaining the security of their country."

If Pakistan had been allowed to put words into Mr Perry's mouth, it could not have done better than this. Pakistan with what eloquence it has been pointing out to the United States the discriminatory nature of the Pressler law—the fact that it zeroes in only on Pakistan while leaving untouched the Indian nuclear programme which set off this particular race in South Asia. Till the coming into office of the Clinton administration these protestations were falling on deaf ears, with America not going beyond the subtlety of trying to bludgeon Pakistan to fall into line and unilaterally give up its nuclear programme. Pakistan can congratulate itself on not

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having succumbed to this pressure. While it has had to face difficulties because of the sudden embargo on military aid—with the vexed question of the F-16s for which it has already paid remaining to be resolved—it has learnt that there is life after American aid. For a country riven by insecurities of various kinds this has been a useful lesson to imbibe.

But beyond the question of discrimination, Pakistan has also been pointing out the ineffectiveness of the punitive approach to foreign policy—centred on the unrealistic expectation that a country threatened by a powerful and ambitious neighbour could be squeezed into making unilateral concessions on a matter lying at the heart of its security concerns. For a US defence secretary to come round to this point of view, even if it has taken five years for this to happen, is something that Pakistan can only welcome. It also gives this country grounds for hoping that the "blunt weapon" Mr Perry has spoken of will be discarded, not so much on account of Pakistan's military needs as because of its ineffectiveness, now publicly admitted, as an instrument of policy.

There is in the US defence secretary's refreshing admission a lesson for Pakistan as well. Sticking to a principled stand may entail momentary pain but over the long term that is always the best thing to do—as much for pragmatic as for moral reasons. Pakistan faced American pressure on the nuclear question but because its stand was just it has the satisfaction of seeing the United States veering even if ever so tardily, to its opinion. This may not translate into radical policy adjustments in Washington but for Pakistani diplomacy this is still a success of some significance.

Editorial Praises Bhutto for Pursuing Kashmir Issue

BK0602135395 Karachi DAWN in English 6 Feb 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Subterfuges Would Not Work"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's address to the nation, on the eve of the nationwide hartal [strike] to demonstrate solidarity with the Kashmiri people in their freedom struggle, was yet another forthright call to New Delhi to resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the wishes of the people of the held state. India's attempt to impose a solution by the most blatant use of force can only prolong the agony of the Kashmiris as also its own predicament. As Ms Bhutto said, so long as the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people continued to be trampled under the boots of the Indian occupation force, India would remain hostage to the Kashmir problem. The so called political process which New Delhi proposes to initiate by staging the farce of an election in the held state has already been rejected by the apex body of the 30- odd parties of the Kashmiri freedom fighters —the All-Parties' Hurriyet conference. Mirewaiz Umar Faruq, chairman of the conference, in his statement in London the other day, made it plain that India should nurse no illusions about the immediate as well as long-term effects of such a ploy. He also stressed that, contrary to what the British foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, had contended, the UN resolutions of 1948-49 envisaging a plebiscite in the state, had in no sense become outdated or irrelevant.

New Delhi has stage-managed any number of elections in the held state but the Kashmiri peoples' demand for self-determination has only continued to grow. In fact, it was following the 1987 electoral fraud that an armed insurgency erupted in the occupied state and it has since developed into a full scale guerrilla war. The uprising has remained unabated despite the inductions of a 600,000 strong security force into the beleaguered valley and heavy casualties among the freedom fighters in view of the Kashmiris' persistent demand for their right to decide their own future, any diversionary move is bound to come up against popular resistance, leading to further escalation of violence and turbulence. It is inconceivable that the people of the state would be willing to participate in the elections in any significant number.

There should be no doubt that there can be no peace and stability in the subcontinent so long as the Kashmir dispute remained unresolved. Accordingly, Prime Minister Bhutto has called upon India to enter into a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan for a political settlement of the conflict. It is also realistic to realise that there can be no meaningful discussion so long as India remained adamant on maintaining the existing level of its military presence in the held state and tensions remained high. While Pakistan would ever be willing to enter into a dialogue aimed at restoring peace in the region, India has to create the objective conditions before such a dialogue can be held.

India has time and again attempted to divert the international community's attention its own repressive role in the held state by accusing Pakistan of sustaining the armed resistance of the Kashmiri people. The Indian representative at the current session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva attempted to do so once again last week. To prove the falsity of such stock Indian allegations, Pakistan has more than once offered to accept the posting of neutral observers on the Line of Control (LoC) and facilitate visits by journalists, foreign parliamentaries and representatives of human rights organisation to see things for themselves along the LoC. Strangely enough, India has persistently rejected the offer. It is in India's own interest to accept Pakistan's offer to come to the negotiating table with an open mind and in a constructive spirit to settle the modalities of a settlement. If must, however, abandon its policy of repression of the Kashmiri people and create a climate conductive for meaningful talks.

Aiding Sikhs Said To Enliven Kashmir Issue

BK0602163795 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 5 Feb 95 p 10

[Editorial: "The Kashmir Issue and the Khalistan Movement"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Talking to reporters after his meeting with opposition leader Nawaz Sharif, Iqbal Singh, director of Sikh Human Rights International, said that the freedom movements of Kashmir and Khalistan are interlinked and that they will not dissipate without reaching their goal. He said that in India the Sikhs are being treated very badly, as are the Muslims, and hence the Sikhs will not rest in peace until they achieve Khalistan.

The other day, when the Kashmiri leader Syed Shabbir Shah participated in a function at the Sikh temple in Amritsar, the head priest of the temple, while expressing similar views, said that both Sikhs and Kashmiris should make efforts to gain freedom from India. Now India has subdued the movement of the Sikhs through oppressive measures, and there is apparent peace in East Punjab. However, this does not mean that the struggle of the Sikhs has collapsed forever. In fact, the Sikhs nurture hard feelings toward India. After East Punjab, India has been implementing the same policy in occupied Kashmir, which it adopted tc crush the India movement. [sentence as published] Here, our shortcoming also wreaked havoc to a great extent, because Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto herself has admitted that she assisted India in resolving the East Punjab problem. This step of ours has harmed the Kashmiris because, feeling satisfied with the situation in East Punjab, India moved all its troops to Kashmir. Therefore, if we want to help the Kashmiris, we should revise our previous policy on East Punjab. If the freedom movement of the Sikhs comes alive again, it will benefit the Kashmiris. As such, even if Khalistan is created, the buffer state of the Sikhs will protect Pakistan from the fury and oppression of India. Therefore, we would like to appeal to our government to give a positive response to the signals of friendship from the Sikhs and try to make the task of the Kashmiris easy by making amends for its past mistakes on East Punjab.

'Serious Split' Surfaces in Muslim League

BK0602132795 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 2 Feb 95 p 1

[Report by Raja Zulfikar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad: A serious split surfaced in Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz group) [PML-N] when its MNA [member of National Assembly] Haji Nawaz Khokhar defected and announced formation of a 12-member forward bloc in the party.

Addressing a hurriedly-called news conference on Wednesday [1 February] night at his Islamabad residence Khokhar said the bloc is composed of PML-N's mostly from Punjab and Sindh. He did not give the names but promised to come before the press with them soon.

"We will continue to oppose the government and do our role as opposition to block all those steps that are detrimental to the system," Khokhar told mediamen.

The reasons he gave for his disassociation from Nawaz Sharif include the latter's "discourteous attitude" and non-stop confrontation with the government. "When you do not accept the President, the Prime Minister and Parliament, it poses a dangerous threat to the system, a grim-looking Khokhar said denying he was under any pressures.

Of late, the MNA from Islamabad has been facing cases and was picked up by the FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] some three weeks ago and jailed. He was allowed to attend the current NA [National Assembly] session some days back and was released on bail on Wednesday.

Khokhar did not attack Sharif much in the news conference but complained against his attitude. "I though he was the friend of friends but he is not. He did not show the courtesy to ask after my ailing mother although I took extra care of his father when he was arrested and brought to Islamabad.

The forward bloc, to be headed by Khokhar, will start active role before long. "We will openly come forward," Khokhar said but conceded his inability to remove Nawaz Sharif as PML-N chief. He said the forward bloc would join neither the PML-J [Junejo] nor the PPP [Pakistan Peoples Party] but maintain its independent identity. But interestingly, he disclosed, "before the no-confidence motion is tabled, my other colleagues will have disengaged themselves from the PML-N," implying they would not support the no-trust move against Ms Bhutto.

In his brief news conference, Khokhar recalled his long association with the PML-N and listed his services for democracy. He said he was disgusted with Sharif seeing the same people had once again gathered around him who caused Sharif's downfall in 1993 despite the two-third majority. "I complained against this and Sharif's policies openly in our Parliamentary meetings but he did not mend his ways."

Also, Khokhar complained, Sharif did not help him in his hard times, when he was facing cases and his mother was seriously ill. "He met me in jail with other colleagues but it looked quite formal."

He said the party (PML-N) had been facing a crisis for about three four months because the vested interests had gone active and "this made our mind to form a forward bloc in the PML-N," Khokhar was being looked with suspicions for his clandestine contacts with the government and leaking information for the past few months. In an explanatory note, however, he clarified he was not demanding the government to withdraw cases against him. "Let the courts decide the truth. I v bow down before the courts' verdict provided accountability is fair."

He denied that his announcement was the consequence of a truce with the government and said he was released

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on bail and he addressed the news conference without meeting anybody. "Can you dub Shnjat's release on bail, on the same analogy, as the result of a compromise," he questioned.

Sri Lanka

Wanasinghe Resignation to Trigger Military Revamp

BK0602144395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The resignation of Sri Lanka's defense secretary is expected to trigger a long-awaited revamp of the military leadership which directed the war against Tamil Tiger separatists, analysts in Colombo said over the weekend.

Outgoing Defense Secretary General Hamilton Wanasinghe had an unscheduled meeting with President Kumaratunga, who accepted his resignation which will take [effect] from next Friday [10 February], official sources said. Kumaratunga initiated talks with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and implemented a truce on 8 January to clear the way for an end to the ethnic conflict which has claimed over 30,000 lives since 1972.

The government has launched an investigation into $72 million arms purchase agreement with a Russian dealer concluded by the military shortly before the collapse of the former administration in August. Retired Air Force Chief Harry Gunatillake, who is also close adviser to the government, said plans have already been made to reorganize the defense establishments and they would not [as heard] go into effect. One of them will be replaced by Election Commissioner Chandrananda de Silva and the structure of the ministry will also be changed to better coordinate work with armed forces, which now has an estimated strength of over 100,000.

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